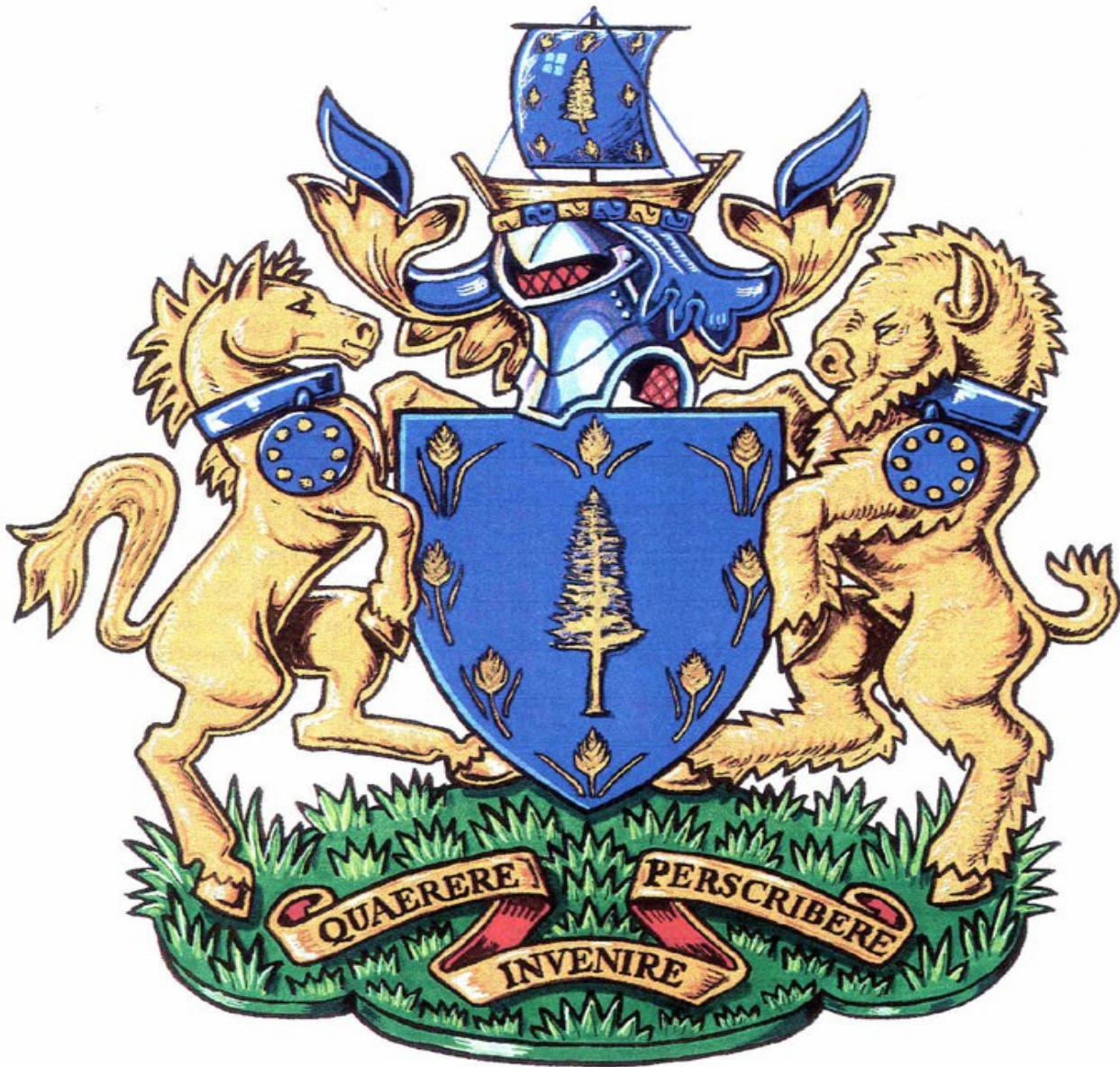


Alberta Genealogical Society



2022 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

29 April 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of Dec. 31, 2022

Officers

President	Al Bromling
Past President	Lynne Duigou
1 st Vice President	Vacant
2 nd Vice President	Dwight Brown
Treasurer	Carolynne Ross
Secretary of the Society	Norma Wolowyk

Directors / Trustee

Brooks	Bob Franz
Calgary	Susan Haga
Camrose	Deb Trout
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Kurt Peterson
Fort McMurray	Tammy Grantham
Grande Prairie	Maxine Maxwell
Lethbridge	Marilyn Astle
Medicine Hat	Don Zimmer
Red Deer	Lauranne Hemmingway
Wetaskiwin	Alice Hoyle

Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Carolynne Ross
Nominations (Chair)	Lynne Duigou
Policies & Procedures/Bylaws (Chair)	Al Bromling

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	Vacant
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
Genealogy4Youth	Marion Rex
GenFair 2022	Grande Prairie
Conference 2023	Al Bromling
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Legal Advisor	Randy Simpson
Library & Resource Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Lynne Duigou
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking	Lynne Duigou
Relatively Speaking Mailing	Terry Terlesky
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Retreat	Susan Haga
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Webmaster(s)	Lianne Kruger Deb Boelstler

AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Jackie Pearson
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

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**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 HRMB 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 \$26,964 in funding
received through the City of Edmonton.***

The sponsorship received from EHC 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 2022 and agreed to have their donation acknowledged.

Your donation helps AGS to fulfill its mission: to promote genealogy and the study of genealogical research in the Province of Alberta.

\$501-1,000

Benevity Canadian Online
Giving Foundation
Edmonton Community
Foundation
Hrychiw, Paulette

\$251-\$500

McKelvie, Edna
Rex, Marion
Rickman, Laurana

\$101-\$250

McNiven, Myrna
Muldrew, Leila
Parker, Patricia
PayPal Giving Fund
Scott, David & Ingrid
Tichkowsky, Roy
Wasylik, Eugene
Wolowyk, Norma

\$76-\$100

Breese, William
Brown, Helen
Brown, Yvonne
Duigou, Lynne
Easton, Francis
Edmunds, Liz
Gibson, Robert
Harasewich, Tillie
Jabusch, Patricia & Don
Lavorsky, Larry
Krezanoski, Irvin
Lowing, Raymond
Moller, Linda
Montieth, Glen & Brenda
Nex, Margaret
Rice, Sali

Ross, Carolynne
Strathcona County Library

\$51-\$75

Buchko, Sandy
Hergot, William & Barbara
Pape, Alfred
Pettitt, Patricia
Phipps, Anne

\$26-\$50

Anderson, Ruth
Ballantyne, Margaret
Bird, Pat
Brinker, Jayleen
Cockwill, Gail
Crozier, Jean
Dawson, Leo & Martha
Deans, Mae
Dyck, Margaret
Edgar, Margaret
Edwards, Susan
Fenske, Mel & Beth
Friedel, Catherine
Gataiant, Carrie
Hertling, Sylvia
Lowe, Graham
Maher, John
Nelson, Alora
Nicol, Herbert
Pohranychny, Edward &
Pauline
Predy, Lorri
Roth, Grace
Snyder, Robert
Todd, Judy
Wolanski, Laurel
Yakymyshyn, Mike

\$11-\$25

Bida, Lauren
Brown, Laura
Browse, Mary
Durie, Gary
Ensminger, Margery
Harker, Wayne
Hope, Herb & Lorraine
Mallett, Debra
Maynard, Bob & Anne
McBride, Joyce
Morgan, David
Rosa, Nestor
Schwering, Marilyn & Nick
Stefaniuk, Nick
Stolte, Bernadette
Timanson, David & Nancy
Walton, Donnie & Garry
Woychuk, John & Iris

\$10

Bauer, Adena
Cooper, Janet
Klein, Brian
Kreiser, Eleanor
Lowe, Donald
Lozynsky, Igor & Sylvia
McPhee, Joe
Mailer, Cindy
Ost, Barbara
Redford, Marcia
Rolls, David
Strydhorst, Adri
Turnbull, Kathleen
Wegert, Joan

We also give out sincere thanks to 31 donors who wished to remain anonymous.

WITH SINCERE THANKS FOR
DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of
Yvonne Bachelder
Rex, Marion

In Memory of
Pauletta (Paula) Anna Dick
Rex, Marion
Duigou, Lynne

In Memory of
Larry Metro Klushak
Rex, Marion

In Memory of
Jan Holmes
Wolowyk, Norma

In Memory of
Susan Kuzmak
McBride, Joyce
Montieth, Glen & Brenda

In Memory of
Luella Grace Mitchell
Rex, Marion

VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2022

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten Branches of the AGS realized a total of **24,550** volunteer hours that were reported in 2022.

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

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
50th Annual General Meeting - Saturday, April 29, 2023
9 am Virtual via Zoom
AGENDA

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement--President Al Bromling

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

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting, April 23, 2022

4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and the Directors of the Board

- a. President - Al Bromling
- b. 1st Vice President – vacant
- c. 2nd Vice President – Dwight Brown
- d. Treasurer – Carolynne Ross
- e. Secretary – Norma Wolowyk
- f. Past President – Lynne Duigou
- g. Directors – Branch Presidents
 - Brooks –Bob Franz
 - Calgary - Susan Haga
 - Camrose – Deb Trout
 - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
 - Edmonton – Kurt Paterson
 - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
 - Grande Prairie – Maxine Maxwell
 - Lethbridge – Marilyn Astle
 - Medicine Hat – Don Zimmer
 - Red Deer – Lauranne Hemmingway
 - Wetaskiwin – Alice Hoyle
- h. Committee Chairs – As listed on the inside cover of this report

5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee Annual Reports

6. Financial Reports – Carolynne Ross (Treasurer)

- a. 2022 Audited Financial Statement
- b. Adoption of Financial Statements
- c. Budget 2023
- d. Approval of Budget
- e. Appointment of Auditor for 2023

7. Election and Bylaw Results – Lynne Duigou, Past President

8. Introduction of New Executive – Lynne Duigou, Past President

9. Resolution of Respect - Frank Easton

10. Courtesy Motions

11. Adjournment

**Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS)
49th Annual General Meeting – 23 April 2022 – Draft Minutes
Via Zoom Hybrid/ Virtual Meeting**

IN ATTENDANCE: 59 Members – 20 in person, 39 via Zoom

*Lynne Duigou – President	*Brenda Henning – Grande Prairie
Sheila Genaille – 1 st Vice President	*Connie Stuhl – Drayton Valley
*Al Bromling – 2 nd Vice President	*Ed Hall – Grande Prairie
*Jock Howard – Past President	*Gail Prette – Grande Prairie
*Marion Rex – Treasurer	*Gail Schau – Grande Prairie
Debra Wickham – Secretary	*Jay Sydoruk – Grande Prairie
*Maxine Maxwell – Grande Prairie	*Rilla Websdale – Grande Prairie
*Lou Duigou – Edmonton	*Suzanne Dunn – Grande Prairie
Alice Hoyle – Wetaskiwin	Blanche Thomson – Edmonton
Carolynne Ross – Edmonton	Clara Iwaasa – Brooks
Claudia Malloch – Wetaskiwin	Claudine Nelson – Edmonton
Courtney Laframboise – Edmonton	David Scott – Edmonton
Diane Lewis – Red Deer	Doreen Schank – Medicine Hat
Doug McLeod – Lethbridge	Eleanor Kreiser – Medicine Hat
Gloria Cathcart – Edmonton	Graham Lowe – Edmonton
Janet Nichols – Edmonton	Janine Carroll – Camrose
John Hazelwood – Edmonton	Judy Bradley - Edmonton
Laura Turnbull – Edmonton	Leroy & Carole Kopp – Wetaskiwin
Lilyon Lundy – Camrose	Liz Kohle – Edmonton
*Lynda Shopka – Grande Prairie	Marilyn Astle – Lethbridge
Melvin Bender – Medicine Hat	Neal Finn – Edmonton
Norma Wolowyk – Edmonton	Robert Barclay – Edmonton
Shannon Cherkowski – Edmonton	Sharon Aney – Wetaskiwin
Susan Haga – Lethbridge	Terry Gregory – Edmonton
Janet Ross-Kerr – Edmonton	Kurt Paterson – Edmonton
Don Zimmer – Medicine Hat	Lorraine McKay – Wetaskiwin
Louise Perkins – Edmonton	*Margaret Dyck – Grande Prairie
*George and Carol Parsons – Grande Prairie	*Marvin & Fran Moore Grande Prairie
Pat Barry – Lethbridge	

* Indicates in person attendance (20.) All other attendees via Zoom (39.)

1. Welcome and call to order: The 49th AGS Annual General Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by President Lynne Duigou. She commenced the meeting by stating that *“The Alberta Genealogical Society respectfully acknowledges Alberta’s Indigenous People, on whose traditional territory we gather.”* President Lynne welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Approval of Agenda:
MOVED by Connie Stuhl that the agenda be accepted as presented in the 2021 Annual Report.
SECONDED by Maxine Maxwell **CARRIED**

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting – 24th April 2020
MOVED by Al Bromling that the minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented in the 2021 Annual Report.
SECONDED by Lou Duigou **CARRIED**

4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors:

- a) President – Lynne Duigou
- b) 1st Vice President – Sheila Genaille
- c) 2nd Vice President – Al Bromling
- d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
- e) Secretary – Debra Wickham
- f) Past President – Jock Howard
- g) Directors – Branch Presidents
 - Brooks – Bob Franz (Director)
 - Camrose – Deb Trout, President/ Janine Carroll (Board Representative)
 - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
 - Edmonton – Kurt Paterson (Trustee)
 - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
 - Grande Prairie – Jean Gray (Director)
 - Lethbridge – Marilyn Astle
 - Medicine Hat – Don Zimmer President
 - Red Deer – Lauranne Hemingway
 - Wetaskiwin – Alice Hoyle
- h) Committee Chairs – as listed on inside cover of the Annual Report

5. Acceptance of the Executive, Branch and Committee Annual Reports.

MOVED by Bob Franz that the Executive, Branch and Committee reports be accepted as presented in the 2021 Annual Report.
SECONDED by Jock Howard **CARRIED**

6. Financial Reports – Marion Rex, Treasurer

Following the presentation and discussion by Marion Rex of the 2021 Audited statements and the 2021 Budget, the following motions were made.

1. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2021 showing an income \$188,456, expenses of \$183,797 and excess of revenue over expenses of \$4,659 be adopted as presented.

SECONDED by Maxine Maxwell

CARRIED

2. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Compilation Engagement Report (formerly known as the Notice to Reader) for AGS Provincial Office 2021 with an income of \$127,801, expenses of \$109,012 and excess of revenue over expenses of \$18,789 be approved as presented.

SECONDED by Jay Sydoruk

CARRIED

3. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the AGS 2022-2023 budget be adopted as presented.
SECONDED by Connie Stuhl **CARRIED**

4. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that KBH (Kouri, Berezan & Heinrichs) Chartered Accountants be retained for 2022.
SECONDED by Al Bromling **CARRIED**

7. Election and Bylaw Results – Jock Howard – Past President.

As there was only one nomination for each the two positions, the following were declared elected by acclamation.

President – Al Bromling

Treasurer – Carolynne Ross

8. Introduction of the new Executive

- President – Al Bromling
- 1st Vice President – Vacant
- 2nd Vice President – Vacant
- Treasurer – Carolynne Ross
- Secretary – Debra Wickham
- Past President – Lynne Duigou

9. Resolution of Respect – Doug McLeod

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, as 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:

Roderick McLeod	#4028	Lethbridge	February 1 st , 2021
Jean Schattle	#2375	Medicine Hat	March 28 th , 2021
Archie Fischer	#4931	Medicine Hat	April 14 th , 2021
Pamela Farmer	#3062	Edmonton	July 16 th , 2021
Shona Wards	#4555	Edmonton	August 10 th , 2021
Doreen Easton	#103	Edmonton	August 11 th , 2021
Ilia Skeith	#2016	Lethbridge	November 9 th , 2021
Carin Thomas	#1447	Edmonton	December 25 th , 2021

And that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes.

Please pause for a minute of silent tribute to their memory.

Thank you.

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

CARRIED

10. Courtesy Motions – Kurt Paterson

MOVED by Kurt Paterson that to all who serve the Society so willingly and selflessly with their gifts of time, energy, enthusiasm, and expertise, we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten branches of the AGS for contributing 19,288 volunteer hours in 2021.

SECONDED by Connie Stuhl

CARRIED

MOVED by Kurt Paterson that we express our sincere appreciation for the tremendous support provided by the dedicated, knowledgeable, and experienced AGS support staff: Jackie Pearson and Shirley Keller.

SECONDED by Marion Rex

CARRIED

11. Presentation of Awards – Lynne Duigou, President

Long Term Membership Certificates – Twenty-five Years

Janet Macdonald	#3572	Edmonton Branch
Shannon Cairns	#3583	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Emma Justik	#3589	Edmonton Branch
Joan Shortt	#3609	Red Deer & District Branch
Janet Monk	#3617	Edmonton Branch
Joan Green	#3629	Edmonton Branch
Patrick J. and Carol A. Barry	#3620	Lethbridge & District Branch
Tony and Mary Jean Locock	#3630	Edmonton Branch
Anne Phipps	#3637	Edmonton Branch
George and Carol Parsons	#3655	Grande Prairie & District Branch
Ellen G. Walton	#3656	Red Deer Branch
Fred and Sandra Veneldik	#3694	Edmonton Branch
Marilyn Wales	#3759	Edmonton Branch

Long Term Membership Certificates – Forty Years

Blanche M. Thomson	#1280	Edmonton Branch
Fran Moore	#1288	Grande Prairie & District Branch
Barbara Roth	#1363	Edmonton Branch

Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards – Excellence in Branch Newsletters

- **Certificate for Best Original Article** – “*Provenance: what is it?*” by Marilyn Astle, #3442, *Yesterday’s Footprints*, May 2021, Vol. 38, No. 2, pp. 11-12, Lethbridge & District Branch
- **Certificate for Best Local Content** – “*Research: Documenting the Present*” by Frederika Bromling, #6205, *Heritage Seekers*, Spring 2021, Vol. 43, No. 1, pp. 6-11, Grande Prairie & District Branch

- **Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter & Certificate for the editor to keep**
Wetaskiwin Branch, *Roots & Branches*, September 2021, Vol. 19, No. 3
Editor: Sharon Aney, #4148

*Thanks to the Judging Committee:
Marilyn Astle, Jock Howard, and Connie Stuhl*

Peter Staveley Memorial Award – *Relatively Speaking* Article

- **Name on Peter Staveley plaque & Certificate for best article**
“*Captain William Brown Bradley: a Soldier of the War of 1812*” by David Scott, #5428,
Edmonton Branch, November 2021, Vol. 49, No. 4, pp. 136-142

*Thanks to the Judging Committee:
Brenda Nugent, Helen Unger and Donna Wyatt*

Certificates of Appreciation

- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Edmonton Heritage Council** for their generous support for the Change Capital Project Grant for Alberta Records Name Index 2021 (\$19,480)
- 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 2021 (\$26,964)
- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Historic Resources Management Branch** for their generous support for publications, training programs, and general administration 2021 (\$29,000)
- Certificate in appreciation of the dedication of the **AGS Research Services Team** who earned donations for AGS through their efforts in assisting family history researchers (\$5409.50)

Special Mention Awards

- **Special Mention Award – Deborah Boelstler #3454 Edmonton Branch**
In recognition of her efficiency and willingness to keep the website up to date, including uploading policies, bylaws, and documents for Board meetings in a very timely fashion and for her dedication in volunteering to serve library patrons.
- **Special Mention Award – Shannon Cherkowski #4948 Edmonton Branch**
In recognition of her many hours of work editing and standardizing data on the surname database in preparation for the new database publication on the AGS website.
- **Special Mention Award – Liz Edmunds #6269 Edmonton Branch**
In recognition of her role as Courses & Outreach Chair, she has facilitated numerous courses and events and highlighted Edmonton Branch as a vibrant organization.
- **Special Mention Award – Al Bromling, President, Grande Prairie & District Branch**
In recognition of organizing a hybrid in-person and virtual GenFair 2022 in an effort to serve a wider membership as we continue to move forward with technology to provide increased access to our online resources for all members.
- **Special Mention Award – Jock Howard #5497 Edmonton Branch**
In recognition his Long Service of 9 years on AGS executive serving as VP of Finance 2011-2016, President 2018-2020, Past President 2020-2022 taking on such responsibilities as establishing a chart of accounts organization wide, instituting consolidated financial statements, hiring AGS’s first bookkeeper, updating the strategic plan, implementing hybrid face-to-face/virtual board meetings as well as coordinating nominations and awards.

- **Special Mention Award – Kurt Paterson #5962 Edmonton Branch**
In recognition of the work involved in chairing the Edmonton Public Library Cemetery Digitization Committee to represent AGS interests in making the print copies of cemetery records available to the wider public through the library.
- **Special Mention Award – Norma Wolowyk #243 Edmonton Branch**
In recognition of her dedicated work as Chair of Database Committee and extensive work to enter, edit and standardize cemetery and other data to prepare it for online delivery.
- **Special Mention Award – Lethbridge & District Branch**
In recognition of many hours of work collecting, preparing records, and entering data for the Southern Alberta Obituary Index, and for hosting it online.

President’s Award

- **Camrose Branch – Deb Trout, President**
In recognition of innovation and engagement of branch members with the weekly Writer’s Group, planned digitization of Camrose Newspaper and other Branch activities especially in the last two years during COVID-19

Retiring Members of the Executive

Sheila Genaille, #1436, 1st Vice President, April 2020-April 2022

Sheila in her time has spent numerous hours on policies and procedures, and was very successful in starting the monthly webinar series: Discovering our Roots, Sharing our Stories held on Zoom. She declined to accept the certificate.

Jock Howard #5379 Retiring President/Past President 2018-2022

During his term as President, Jock worked to update the strategic plan and did the extensive research and implementation for hybrid board meetings enabling AGS to seamlessly step into online virtual meetings during COVID-19 lockdowns. He also worked on nominations, searched for replacements for the executive, and coordinated awards and recognition.

Marion Rex #3341 Retiring Treasurer 2016-2022

During her term Marion worked very closely with the bookkeeper to reshape our Chart of Accounts, set up an annual calendar of process and streamlined the financial accounting. She implemented the purchase of rotating GIC’s to improve our investment portfolio, obtained CEBA funding during COVID-19, and started the work to align our accounting practices with Imagine Canada standards for not-for-profit organizations.

19,288 Reported Volunteer Hours in 2021

12. Adjournment

MOVED by Marion Rex to adjourn – Lynne Duigou declared the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Doug McLeod, Acting AGS Secretary

Lynne Duigou, AGS President

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President – Al Bromling



Volunteer Hours:
415

I was honoured to become the President of the Society at the annual meeting in April 2022. Fortunately, we were emerging from the challenges and

frustrations of the pandemic period, and looking forward to a period of renewal and excellent service to our genealogical community.

During the pandemic period our Society had made several adaptations, including extensive use of Zoom technology for our activities. The Board made the decision to continue to develop this innovation into a core technology to host meetings, facilitate Special Interest Group (SIG) activities, deliver presentations, and enhance collaborative work among branches and with partner organizations.

Provincial AGS and some branches have purchased subscriptions to Zoom technology and have implementation plans in place. At the provincial level, all Executive and Board meetings during 2022 used the Zoom platform, except the in-person fall strategic planning session in September.

Other adaptations include:

- The AGS GenFair and AGM in April engaged our membership (83 for GenFair and 60 for the AGM) in learning and decision-making activities. It was a hybrid event with Zoom technology, which worked well for GenFair presentations and reasonably well for the AGM.
- The May 28 AGS Board meeting was also a hybrid event. All the limitations of a technology-mediated event were out in full force and only exemplary member patience allowed for a successful meeting.
- Responding to an initiative of the Edmonton branch, AGS is now a member of **Techsoup** which gives AGS and its branches, as a non-profit organization, access to free and discounted products such as software and service essential for adaptation. With this certification process now complete, AGS and its 11 branches can now take advantage of purchasing software at significantly reduced prices.
- The Society has acquired Google Workspace and three branches are engaged with pilot initiatives to utilize the data storage and sharing capacity of this software.

Strategic Planning

Early in 2022 the Board directed the Executive to set up a facilitated strategic planning session to develop a 2023-2025 plan to refresh our analysis and replace the current plan.

- We approached the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (ECVO) and the Alberta Community Support Network (ACSN) and were able to contract a planning facilitator to set up sessions for September and November.

- The new goals statement maintains the core elements of the 2019-2022 plan but brings more focus on the health of the organization, the need for collaborative strategies, and a commitment to more diversity in the genealogical resources our Society provides.
- Branches are challenged to develop operational plans for their activities in the context of the new statement.
- To strengthen our membership drives and reflect a more coherent profile, there will be more use of the AGS tag line --“*BRINGING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE.*”

Other Initiatives –

- **Richard Nash Bequest:** The good fortune of our organization continued as we received a very substantial monetary gift from the Richard Nash estate. Our next step is to develop investment and allocation policies that ensure prudent use of this important source of revenue. A Board Committee will prepare recommendations to clarify choices for Society investment of the funds.
- **AGS Golden Anniversary:** At the May meeting the AGS Board committed to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Alberta Genealogical Society with a 2023 Fall Conference. Funds have been allocated to provide leadership for the event.
- **A History of our Society:** We celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2023 and it seems appropriate that we recognize the success of our organization and the contribution of our volunteers by means of a 50th Anniversary publication. Thanks to Bob Franz who is leading this initiative.
- **Renewed Shared use Agreement:** AGS and the Edmonton Branch jointly operate the central office and library to serve all members. The parties have updated the operating agreement. The Library/Resource Centre will be managed by the Edmonton Branch.
- **An AGS Branch in Calgary:** The Board endorsed the efforts of a group of members in Calgary who wished to establish an AGS Branch. The Board of Directors approved the initiative and submitted the Notice of Change form on December 23, 2022. It is pending

official registration with the Alberta Registrar of Societies Act.

- **Membership Revitalization Reserve:** The Society established a reserve fund using available monies from the lower activity of the pandemic period. The Board approved the first allocation of funds in support of Edmonton Branch participation in the Edmonton and District Historical Society’s Open Doors activities. Further Branch and Committee proposals are encouraged. AGS current (2022) membership of 626 is less than our five-year average of 670.
- **Relatively Speaking Sustainability Reserve:** The Board established a *Relatively Speaking* Sustainability Reserve that will support contracting of some editorial services on a three-year basis.

You will find more details on the above items in other sections of this report.

Past President – Lynne Duigou



Volunteer Hours
765

During the past year I have worked on the following:

Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI)
– I was the liaison for the committee

between the Board of Directors, OtherMachines (the contractor) and the AGS volunteers. Dwayne Holmberg, of Other-Machines, Norma Wolowyk and Shannon Cherkowski did an excellent job of standardizing the data, correcting the errors, and preparing the data for Dwayne who then created the database. Dwayne then had ARNI go “live” (soft launch) and worked on areas that were problematic. Once the problems were resolved the database went live on September 8, 2022. Shannon has continued to add data and ARNI now has over 1,000,000 records. It is a dream come true for

the volunteers who have been collecting information since 1974. I put together an introduction ARNI which was published in the November issue of *Relatively Speaking* and made a poster for the AGS and Branch *Facebook* pages to announce it.

Nominations – I secured candidates for appointment to fill the positions of 1VP, 2VP and Secretary vacant positions on the Executive. The Executive appointed them to fill the positions until the 2023 AGM. The Board ratified the appointments. The 1VP resigned in September and a replacement was not found so the position remained vacant.

Calgary Branch – Interest has been expressed in the formation of a Calgary Branch of AGS. I emailed all the current AGS members with Calgary postal addresses to determine whether they would like to meet to discuss the formation of a branch and how AGS could facilitate this decision. Our Bylaws stipulate that a minimum of ten members are needed to form a branch. I met with the group in June and they voted to go ahead as they had ten+ members who were interested. They formed the branch at a meeting in August and elected an executive. In November they sent the required letter with ten members signatures requesting formation to AGS Board who approved the formation. In December I sent a letter to Alberta Corporate Registries requesting that they formally add AGS Calgary as our eleventh branch. Confirmation was received in March 2023 and money set aside for the branch formation was forwarded to the AGS Calgary executive for branch use.

Relatively Speaking – I worked with the editor, Linda Bolton-Holder, to produce the February issue of *Relatively Speaking*. Linda was not able to continue as editor due to illness. So, I again resumed the position of Editor of *Relatively Speaking* in May. The Board of Directors moved in November to allocate funds to hire an editor. I advertised and Al Bromling, John Althouse and I conducted interviews for an Editor for *Relatively Speaking* in January

2023 and hired Kate Wilson. Kate comes to us with an extensive background in writing for newspapers and working for not-for-profits.

I recruited a committee of three ladies Helen Unger, Brenda Nugent, and Donna Wyatt to judge the four 2022 issues and choose a winner for the Peter Staveley Memorial Award. They will submit their choice in March for the Awards to be presented at the Conference in 2023.

50th Anniversary Conference September 23, 2023 – Since Chateau Louis did not return our phone calls, Carolynne Ross and I visited Edmonton Inn as a new location for the conference. We worked out rooms for speakers, vendors, SIGs, coffee, lunch and banquet. We were able to obtain a contract for a similar pricing which Al signed. Carolynne delivered a deposit cheque to the hotel to secure the contract. Hotel rooms were blocked/reserved for us and will be offered at a conference rate per night.

Website Renewal – I have been working with Raymond Robinson of MediaShaker to update the website. Kurt Paterson, Raymond, and I had weekly meetings in December and January to discuss content, process and changes needed to the text and presentation of the information. I feel very positive about the suggested changes as I feel they are clean, clear and will make the website easier to navigate. The website now will present the information in a way that I feel will provide our members and the public with speedy access to meet their needs be it new membership, renewal, branch information, resources or benefits of membership.

Awards – Nomination forms have been sent out with the print copy of *Relatively Speaking* in November and February editions. I encouraged branches to nominate worthy candidates for the numerous AGS awards which recognize out-standing service to the Branch and AGS. I am positive there are many members deserving of recognition by AGS. We plan to present the Awards at the 50th Anniversary Conference Banquet on September

23, 2023, so that award winners can have family and friends present to celebrate with them.

AGS Office/Edmonton Branch Library Lease Renewal – Carolynne Ross and I met several times with the lease coordinator for Nearctic, our landlord, and were able to negotiate a two-year lease for our Edmonton office and library space. We negotiated the lease with only a small increase in cost. The lease is for December 1, 2022 – November 30, 2024.

I acted as AGS Board Liaison to verse the **Edmonton Public Library Digitization** of cemetery records collected by AGS volunteers beginning in 1974. These books were published by AGS in printed book form primarily during the 1980s. They are no longer available but the Provincial Archives of Alberta has a complete set. Kurt Paterson was the contact with the Edmonton Public Library and project lead. I received the contracts, had them vetted by our lawyer Randy Simpson and then sent them to Al Bromling to be signed so the digitization could begin. The contents will be available digitally and will allow for optical character recognition.

Presentations – In April 2022, I was one of the speakers in the Edmonton Branch *Tracing Your Family Tree - Introduction to Genealogy* series of webinars. I also presented a Webinar – *Genealogy 101* to the Lacombe and District Museum Society on May 18, 2022. In this way AGS hopes to make more people aware of the Alberta Genealogical Society, its services, and resources. Thus, working towards achieving our goals of education, supporting members, and encouraging new membership.

Marion Rex and I made a presentation in January to some Edmonton Heritage Council staff which addressed some of their questions and concerns regarding our grant proposal. They commented that “AGS needs to toot their horn more” as they were not aware from our grant submission of all the diversity we promote, the projects we have underway, as

well as the educational courses and webinars we provide.

Genealogy4Youth – I assisted Marion Rex with the **Our Family Roots Project** on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at the Art Gallery of Alberta in Edmonton. The Alberta Genealogical Society presented 46 Grade Five students from St. Thomas Aquinas School, Spruce Grove with certificates for the completion of a poster on their Indigenous or Immigrant Family History. Sponsored by the Art Gallery of Alberta, the students’ posters were on exhibition for almost a month in the TD Learning Gallery. Approximately 180 students, parents and family members gathered for the presentation of certificates, the gallery viewing, and the juice and cookies reception sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. A newspaper account of the event was published in the Friday, April 1, 2022 edition of the *Spruce Grove Examiner*. I helped judge the posters and presented the certificates at the Gala. I prepared an article for *Relatively Speaking*, a pictorial display for the office, as well as a report for the Board of Directors on Our Family Roots Project.

Annual General Meeting and GenFair were held in Grande Prairie. I attended and chaired the meeting and presented the AGS Awards for 2022.

President's Award Presentation to Camrose Branch – On May 13, 2023 I travelled to Camrose for their monthly Branch meeting. Since no Camrose representative was able to attend the AGM in person, I was able to personally present and congratulate Camrose Branch and Deb Trout, Camrose President, with the award "*In recognition of innovation and engagement of Branch members with the weekly Writer's Group, planned digitization of Camrose Newspaper and other Branch activities especially in the last two years during COVID-19.*"

Edmonton Branch Trustee – I worked with the AGS and Edmonton Branch executive to appoint a Trustee as the branch was not able to

elect a President or Vice President. An outline of the position and a list of duties and responsibilities was prepared and adopted by Executive and ratified by the AGS Board of Directors. Kurt Paterson was appointed Trustee. The Board reviewed the position every six months over the one year.

2nd Vice President – Dwight Brown



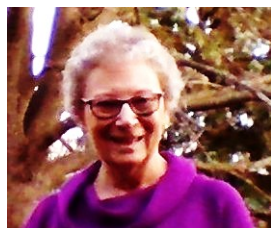
Volunteer Hours
65

I assumed the 2nd Vice President's position by appointment on May 1, 2022 for 1 year. I attended all board and executive meetings for

the year; from October through December, I chaired all executive meetings.

I am also a member of the long-term investment committee.

Treasurer – Carolynne Ross



Volunteer Hours – 326 hours

Marion Rex – January – April – 126 hours

Audit 2022

The audit was completed for the year 2022 by Louise Chauvet, CPA, CA and her team at KBH Chartered Professional Accountants. AGS prepares a consolidated financial statement, which includes income and expenses for the provincial body and the eleven (11) branches. The Branches audited by KBH were Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray along with

AGS provincial. The chartered accountants also reviewed the finances of the other eight (8) branches. KBH has prepared an audit report of AGS Consolidated along with a Compilation Engagement for the AGS Provincial.

The Alberta Genealogical Society Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2022 showing an income of \$614,488 (which includes the Richard “Dick” Nash bequest of \$413,000) and expenses of \$199,863, with a net excess of revenue over expenses of \$414,625. Excluding the Nash Bequest, the operating net income for 2022 was \$1,625.

The Compilation Engagement Report for Alberta Genealogical Society Provincial Office Financial Statements 2022 showing an income of \$544,969 (which includes the Richard “Dick” Nash bequest of \$413,000) and expenses of \$127,488, with a net excess of revenue over expenses of \$417,481. Excluding the Nash Bequest, the net operating income for 2022 was \$4,481.

A surplus of \$417,481.00 was shown for 31 December 2022 for AGS Provincial. This is due to the following:

Revenue

\$544,969

Major variances are:

- Higher than anticipated donation Richard (Dick) Nash Bequest
- Higher than anticipated grants

Expense

Major variances are:

- Higher costs for meetings (AGM was hybrid and in-person Board meeting in September)
- Website maintenance
- Advertising 1,900
- Less cost for utilities

KBH Chartered Professional Accountants have determined that the materiality level for the 2022 audit is \$6,000.00, same as 2021.

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

Guaranteed Income Certificates (GIC)

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

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

The Canada Emergency Business Account grant of \$40,000 has been invested in a non-redeemable GIC. The amount of \$30,000 is to be paid back to the Government of Canada by December 31, 2023, with AGS keeping \$10,000 plus the interest earned.

Casino/Gaming

AGS members worked a casino event on March 20 & 21, 2022 at Century Casino in Edmonton. The proceeds from this event were received May 26, 2022, for a total of \$79,287.52. This was an increase of \$ 4,996.65 over our last casino in 2019 and the 3rd highest amount received since 2006.

Several Branches held casino events in 2022:

- Fort McMurray had their casino on April 19 & 20, 2022 and received the proceeds of \$32,420.24 in August 2022.
- Brooks / Medicine Hat had their casino on October 6 & 7, 2022 in Medicine Hat and will receive the proceeds from this in February 2023.

For more information about casino, please see the Casino Report by Laura Turnbull for more information.

Grants & Other Funding

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

- **Historic Resources Management Branch (HRMB) Sponsorship**—The Provincial Heritage Organizations are under the umbrella of the Historic Resources Management Branch, funded by the Government of Alberta through the Heritage Division of Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women. In 2022, AGS received **\$29,000** (\$29,000 in 2021) which was applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations, and general administration.
- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2022, AGS received **\$26,964** in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton (\$26,964 in 2021). This funding helps provide both staffing and operational support.
- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Change Capital Project Grant**—In 2021, AGS applied for and received a change capital project grant for the Alberta Records Name Index project in the amount of **\$19,480** on September 7, 2021. Of that amount, \$9110.78 was spent in 2021 with the remaining \$10,369.22 being expended in 2022. The project went live in September 2022. Our sincere thanks to Edmonton Heritage Council for making this project possible.

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS Provincial \$4,252.18 (\$3,748.75 in 2021) and its branches \$6,876.80 (\$3,854.87 in 2021) received \$11,128.08 (\$8,366.87 in 2021) in donations. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report. AGS Provincial also provided Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Wetaskiwin Branches with \$1,435 in branch support. Edmonton Branch received \$188.35 in library donations. Please see the Grants & Other Funding report by Marion Rex for more information.

Richard “Dick” Nash Estate

AGS received \$413,000 as one of the benefactors of the Richard “Dick” Nash Estate. This amount was placed in a redeemable GIC and will be invested by the AGS Board on a recommendation from the AGS Long Term Investment Ad hoc Committee in 2023. AGS will receive further monies upon settlement of the estate.

Research

In 2022, AGS consolidated raised a total of \$7,184.50 by answering research queries, as follows:

Provincial Office	\$4,307.42
Edmonton	2,687.08
Grande Prairie	165.00
Lethbridge	<u>25.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$7,184.50</u>

Please see the Research report by Norma Wolowyk for more information.

Lease

Lynne Duigou and Carolynne Ross negotiated with Nearctic for a two (2) year lease based on the proceeds of the AGS 2022 Casino.

Relatively Speaking Sustainability Fund

The Board approved a motion to establish a Relatively Speaking Sustainability Fund of \$15,000. This will provide funding for the contracting of an editor.

Long-Term Investment Ad hoc Committee

As a result of receiving a sizable monetary amount from the Richard “Dick” Nash Estate, a Long-Term Investment Ad hoc Committee was set up with three (3) representatives from the AGS Executive, two (2) representatives from the Finance Committee and a Chair being a neutral body. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Board on optimum, low to medium safe risk investment strategies when donations are received exceeding \$40,000. The members of the Committee are Marion Rex, Chair and Grants & Other Funding Chair; Al Bromling, AGS President; Carolynne Ross, AGS Treasurer & Recording Secretary; Dwight

Brown, AGS 1st Vice-President; Greg Bounds, Branch Representative, Finance Committee; and Laura Turnbull, Casino/Gaming Chair, Finance Committee. The committee recommended a policy be put in place for handling the Richard “Dick” Nash Estate. They will be recommending an investment strategy in 2023.

Techsoup

This is a company dedicated to providing charities, non-profit groups, etc., with the opportunity of purchasing “donated and discounted technologies for a low administrative fee.” AGS has become a member of this group and a couple of the Branches have purchased programs.

Bookkeeping

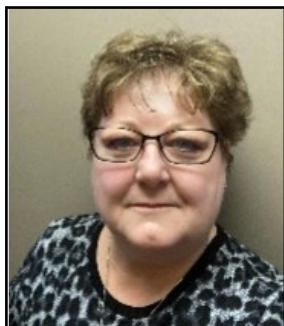
Shirley Keeler, the AGS Bookkeeper, continues to provide excellent and efficient service to our Society. Not only does she do the bookkeeping for the Society, but she also consolidates all the financial information for the requirements of Revenue Canada; provides information and advice for the Branch Treasurers; continues to maintain an excellent working relationship with our Office Coordinator, Jackie Pearson; provides assistance to the Grants & Other Funding Coordinator, Marion Rex; assists in liaising with the auditors, and has provided superb mentorship to me as the new AGS Treasurer. I am truly grateful for her knowledge and unlimited supply of patience.

Finance Committee

As the new Treasurer, I am deeply indebted to the members of the Finance Committee. Norma Wolowyk, our Secretary and Research Committee Chair; Al Bromling, AGS President, ex Officio; Laura Turnbull, Casino/Gaming Chair; Marion Rex, Grants and Other Funding Chair; Tammy Grantham, Branch Representative; Greg Bounds, Branch Representative; and Claudine Nelson, AGS Library Chair are the members of the Committee. They provide the direction and the historical information needed to guide the financial matters of our Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolynne Ross
AGS Treasurer

Secretary – Debra Wickham and Norma Wolowyk



AGS Executive and Board meeting minutes from January to May 2022 were recorded and filed by either Debra Wickham, elected AGS Secretary (Medicine Hat

Branch) or acting Secretary Doug McLeod (Lethbridge Branch.) The 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes were recorded by Doug McLeod.



After the resignation of Debra Wickham in April 2022 Norma Wolowyk (Edmonton Branch) was appointed acting AGS Secretary until the AGM in April 2023. All Executive and Board meeting minutes for 2022 have now been recorded,

approved and filed at the AGS Office.

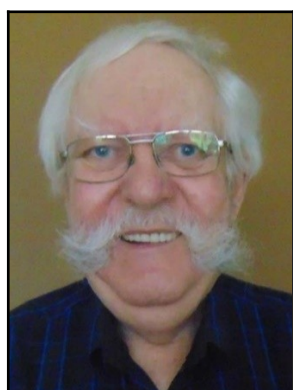
As Secretary, I attended three Executive committee meetings, and three Board of Directors meetings. At those meetings, I recorded the minutes and sent out the draft and final approved versions of the minutes. I also maintained the official record of the minutes and the record of the motions made at the meetings.

BRANCH ANNUAL REPORTS

Brooks and District Branch



Robert Franz



Volunteer Hours 420
 Membership 18

Executive Committee

Director	Robert Franz
Vice President	Eileen French
Past President	Maurice Landry
Secretary	Henry Najda
Treasurer	Karyn Norden
Finance Chair	Karyn Norden
Cemetery	Eileen French
	Karyn Norden
Librarian	Henry Najda
Membership	Henry Najda
Newsletter	Glenn Michell
Research	Clara Iwaasa
Casino	Eileen French
	Karyn Norden
Webmaster	Karyn Norden

Meetings

February: The regular executive meeting and the annual AGM were held on February 9. Re-elected by acclamation were Vice President Eileen French, Secretary Henry Najda, and Treasurer Karyn Norden. Also returned were Research Chair Clara Iwaasa and Library Liaison Henry Najda. Maurice Landry moved to the Past President position. Glenn Michell volunteered and was appointed editor of the branch newsletter. Since we don't have a president, Eileen French will continue to chair meetings and Henry Najda to continue preparing the agenda. Bob Franz volunteered to serve as and was appointed Director to provide a communication link with the Provincial Board until such time as a president is elected.

An enquiry seeking personal research data was received from the sister of a past member (Lyle Kloth) who passed away 2016. To everyone's surprise, our researcher discovered Lyle had six different family trees. His personal one - **Kloth Patten Flack Family** - had 12,814 names, 29,395 records, 3,071 media and 140 photos in the photo gallery. Other trees he was maintaining were William George Family Tree 5,250; Bascom Family Tree 150; France Family Tree 2,177; Charlemagne Family Tree 27,293; and Mayflower Family Tree 8,366.

March: We held our regular Wednesday executive meeting and a Saturday afternoon open house. One individual attended and renewed a lapsed membership.

April: We held our regular Wednesday executive meeting and a Saturday afternoon open house. Two members (Clara Iwassa and Bob Franz) attended the GenFair and Provincial AGM. Congratulations to the Grand Prairie Branch members for a very successful and enjoyable event.

May: We held our regular Wednesday executive meeting. Glenn Mitchell presented his first issue of the branch newsletter, *Heir Lines* (Volume 35, Spring.) One hundred copies of the self-guided Historic Buildings Walking Tour pamphlets updated by Maurice Landry were printed and will be distributed to key centers in the city. The branch annual outing was held in May instead of June. A small contingent of seven members and spouses (in two cars) travelled to the community of Rosebud for the lunch smorgasbord, live matinee performance, and enjoyment of each other's company.

June: We held our regular Wednesday executive and members meeting.

July: Several branch members organized and attended a display of the branch children's genealogy books in the schoolhouse on the Brooks Museum grounds as part of the annual celebrations of Canada Day. Dwindling Museum Society membership resulted in a cut back in activities, change in location for some events, and reduced participation this year. The B and D Genealogy display was well attended and the schoolhouse filled with enthusiastic children, as well as a member of the RCMP. The branch executive did not meet in July or August.

September: We held our regular Wednesday executive and members meeting. Our program event arranged by member Bob Franz for members and the public September 17 (hosting the viewing of the National Film Board documentary "From Sherbrooke to Brooks")

about the immigration of members of the Brooks African community to Brooks 20 years ago and viewing of the Branch library and resources) as part of the Alberta Culture Days activities in Brooks had a dismal turnout. Attendance was 7 members and 2 guests (relatives). On a positive note, as the NFB representative observed small audiences often have the most impact and generate the most discussion.

October: We held our regular Wednesday executive and members meeting. A group work bee was held to submit requested information for grant purposes. On October 6 Brooks branch members travelled to Medicine Hat for the joint October 6/7 casino fundraiser with Medicine Hat. Changes in procedures reduced the number of members needed.

November: Member David Clarke presented a power point presentation on the military involvement of citizens of Brooks and area for members and the public at our monthly program presentation. In attendance were six members and two relatives.

Founder, former Branch President, AGS life member, and long-time branch research chair, Clara Iwassa was recognized and honoured November 19 by the receipt of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) at a special ceremony. Former branch treasurer, Brian Dunlop was also awarded this medal for his volunteer work with the Brooks Adult Learning Council.

December: B and D executive appointed David Fionn Clarke interim president until the 2023 AGM. The annual Christmas supper and social was held this year at the Brooks Legion.

There were four additions to our **Library holdings:**

**Celebrating Gratitude Togetherness 75th*



Anniversary Gem

**Passages: Ditchbanks to Pipelines Gem and Area 2000*

**We Don't Talk About Those Women: Lethbridge Red Light District 1880s*

**Airdrie 1909-2009 Celebrating 100 years of history, community and opportunity.*

Camrose Branch

Deb Trout



Volunteer Hours 1,111
Membership 29

Executive Committee

President	Deb Trout
Vice President	Janine Carroll
Secretary	Lilyon Lundy
Treasurer	Alora Nelson
Librarian	Bev Webster
Newsletter Editor	Maureen Scrutton
Webmaster/Facebook	Deb Trout
Membership Chair	Wendy Roth
Events	Cindy Mailer

Meetings

January: John Althouse presented how to use the Family Search catalogue. A most under-utilized tool.

February: Disaster Proofing Your Genealogy was the education session of our meeting. Discussion was related to our ancestors and romance.

March: Branch member, Cindy Mailer, provided a presentation about creating a family history book. It was very informative, telling us about various styles, word processing software and publishing companies. Cindy has very recently submitted her own family book for printing.

April: Branch vice-president, Janine Carroll, told us about oral history and how to interview our relatives.

May: Branch member, Kim Downey, presented a very entertaining and informative power point about software she uses both in her professional life and her genealogy research. She included alternatives to her favourites as well. The group learned much from this presentation.

June: This month's presentation was on how to prepare for a genealogical road trip.

October: Former branch president, Norm Prestage, presented military research. The group was tasked with doing some research and presenting it at the November meeting.

November: A presentation at the Camrose Railway Museum was cancelled due to illness and vacations of our members. We will meet at the museum in the spring.

December: We held a Christmas social event with snacks for sharing, and we wore ugly Christmas sweaters or accessories. Some

members brought something military, some brought family heirlooms, others brought Christmas items and shared the story behind them.

In April we returned to in person meetings. We are attempting to host hybrid meetings. It is an ongoing process.

In August, the Board met in person for the first time in two years to map out the direction for the group. We have decided not to host in person meetings in January and February, instead playing a webinar via Zoom. We will arrange road trips for July and August for in person events.

We created a new board position of Event Co-Coordinator to assist with arranging events.

Our newsletter editor resigned effective December 31st after 10 years. Fortunately, another member stepped up to take over the duties.

The weekly email, 'Genealogy Gleanings' which is a membership perk for Camrose members continues.

Events

May: AGS past president Lynne Duigou and her husband Lou attended our meeting to present the President's Award to our branch which was announced at the AGM.

August 7th was our summer social at the Merna United Church and Cemetery. Two of our members have family buried there. Unfortunately, neither member was able to attend to give us details. We had a picnic, wandered the cemetery, and viewed the church which is always open. Miraculously, the church has never been vandalized.

August 20th four members and some of their family members hosted an information booth at the Clan Gathering at Sedgewick, AB. We had many visitors to the table and enjoyed the Scottish bands.

September 8th we hosted a table at the annual Camrose Registration Night. This event gives groups and clubs in the city an opportunity to show residents what they are all about. Our table was very busy. Fingers crossed for new members!!!

September 11th several of the group travelled to Alix, AB to visit the Alix Wagon Wheel Museum. This event was in place of our regular monthly meeting.

Projects

Work on the fourth book of the BMD for the Camrose Canadian (1905- 2018) continues.

Obituaries for Flagstaff County Project -- renamed The Flagstaff Ancestral Heritage Collection -- is ongoing with a total of 4,326 entries to date.

We are working with AGS to obtain funds to purchase equipment for the Camrose Booster digitization project -- we have the buy in by the newspaper and they have a room we can use.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)


- Writing Your Family History -- continues to meet Mondays. A second group is under consideration.
- Organizing Your Genealogy -- this SIG has been revisited and is now back to meeting in person once a month. Participants meet in a room at the Camrose County Office to work on various projects -- paper or digital.
- Researching Military Ancestors -- This is a new SIG which was started in October. It

meets once a month. Two military veteran members assist participants with finding records. The meetings are at the local museum which enables members to look at actual military items.

Drayton Valley Branch

Connie Stuhl



	
Volunteer	Hours
	200
Membership	6

It has been a quiet year for our branch as not everyone is okay with gathering in groups.

We have held our meetings by Zoom, as hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings, and then in person only at the Drayton Valley Library. Some of the topics covered at our Branch meetings include computer

questions, review of resources within the library, how to build your family tree, discussing the queries that have been received, common mistakes in genealogy, and searching for ancestors using *MyHeritage*, as well as round table discussions of our research questions.

Over the year we have had a few queries that included looking for attestation papers for a Canadian WWII soldier, a person searching for an ancestor in Rocky Mountain House, a query about someone who lived in Drayton Valley between 1995 and 1999, and a picture of a

football team in the local newspaper from 1964 to 1966.

We have had success with creating Genealogy for Youth kits that are loaned from the Drayton Valley Library. Each kit has been borrowed 6 times with a few renewals, with more than one child per kit. We have printed out more Certificates of Completion that are given out by the Library Staff when the kit is returned and completed workbook is presented.

We continue to collect obituaries from our local newspapers which are placed on cards and are in a file cabinet within the library. These have been utilized by those searching for information on their family.

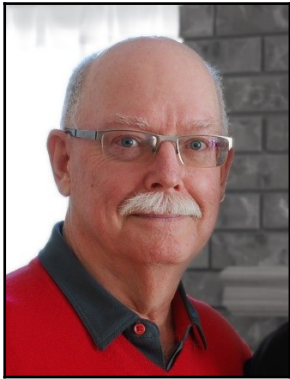
Posts of interest to those researching have been posted on our *Facebook* page and we have had some interest generated.

We are planning on attending a community engagement event at the end of January 2023.

Edmonton Branch



Kurt Paterson



Volunteer Hours 12,273
 Membership 370

Executive Committee

Trustee	Kurt Paterson
President	Vacant
Vice President	Vacant
Past President	Les Campbell
Secretary	Thea Hawryluk
Treasurer	Ken Fearnley
Genealogical Courses	Liz Edmunds
	Robyn Morales
Corresponding Secretary	Bev Wardell
Library Coordinator	Deb Boelstler
Membership	Claudine Nelson
	Colleen Murray
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Genaille
Online Meeting Coordinator	Robyn Morales
Program	Lisa Mackenzie
Publicity	Sharon Dyer
Research	Norma Wolowyk
Webmaster	Courtney Laframboise

Continuous improvement

It feels like there is a renewed energy and excitement amongst our members with many

improvements in our library operation as well as positive changes on our Branch website. The high quality and variety of speakers at our monthly general meetings has been greatly appreciated. To help with onboarding of new board members, we also updated most of the

board’s position descriptions, and are in the process of developing an annual calendar.

Last year, the board recognized there was a need for updating and improving how we conduct our meetings and deliver our programs differently. Using Zoom, we delivered the General Meetings, Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, and *Tracing Your Family Tree* (TYFT) workshops. In 2022, we held 94 meetings (2021 – 64 meetings) with just over 10% increase in participation (1,755 participants vs 1,592 in 2021.)

Our team has been successful in delivering a hybrid meeting solution that allows for up to 25 in-person participants. Our treasurer reports that we are in a solid financial position with a strong balance sheet.

2023 to 2025 Branch Operational Plan

A series of seven town hall meetings were held to discuss the draft operational plans. Overall, the town halls were successful and significant input was received from all participants.

Work has commenced on developing more details and specifics for the draft operational plans created last fall. We will be refreshing the AGS Edmonton Branch Operational Plan periodically to help determine our progress and identify any projects that need to be changed or deleted.

The AGS Edmonton board will review the 2023 – 2025 AGS Edmonton Branch Operational Plans at its March meeting after our branch Annual General Meeting in February. This will provide the newly elected board opportunity for

input, make any changes, and then fully endorse this work plan.

Library

After many difficult months, the library was opened on a regular basis after COVID-19 closures. In 2022, with the efforts of our amazing volunteers, we now have a library collection policy, an updated library volunteer's manual, lots of local histories and Irish Books donated to AGS Edmonton branch, visible appearance of library with the computer desks getting new glass tops, and many new volunteers signing up to volunteer their services. We continue to review and adjust the physical appearance inside the library to help improve the library experience. Members of our team have updated the finding aid procedures for the Denney Collection binders and Alberta's People. A survey was completed in October 2022 on the library usage and we will be reviewing this feedback from the 47 responses in the coming months. The library volunteer recognition event at year end was very well attended and appreciated.

Monthly Meeting and Speakers

The monthly speaker program now has a higher profile. The many hours of exploring local historic resources, seeking out interesting speakers including outreach experts in their fields and authors, building community, networking, researching, hosting joint events, and offering relevant themes with an inclusive approach have generated a lot of interesting conversations. Some discussions have also helped to solve some "brick wall issues."

January – Bruce Peel Library & Archives/U of A by Dr. Linda Quirk.

February – Early Black Settlers in Alberta, featuring Campsie by Debra Beaver.

March – German Genealogy by John Althouse (AGS Member.)

April – A Survey of Scotland's People Collections by Tessa Spencer.

May – Peeling Back the Grid, Early Settlers of the Beaver Hills by Dylan Reade.

June – Early History of St. Albert with the Musée Héritage Museum by Vino Vipulanantharajah.

September – Ukrainian Settlement in Alberta, U of A Kule Institute by Jars Balan.

October – Donald MacLaren, WWI Alberta/BC Pilot Ace by Roger Gunn.

November – War Brides in Alberta - the story of her mother by Anna Lynn Sanche.

Research

The AGS Edmonton Branch has received between 120 and 150 research inquiries per year over the last few years. The volunteers of the Research Committee (Gordon Berdahl, John Hazelwood, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt and Norma Wolowyk) were part of a group of Provincial Archives of Alberta volunteers that were awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award by the Alberta Government Historic Resources Management Branch for their contribution over the past 33 years in facilitating the easy access and preservation of genealogical records held at the PAA.

Social (*Facebook*) and Website

Our *Facebook* pages has over 1,000 followers. With more than four dozen monthly meeting and course notices to various public libraries, seniors' centers, archives, this is yet another channel of communication that is being

developed to improve our communication with fellow genealogists.

Various website updates were made through an active fall event calendar and volunteer opportunity listings. A project currently in progress is reviewing various non-profit and member-based organization websites, reporting findings on what organizations do well and where EdmontonGenealogy.ca has some potential gaps. A consolidated report is anticipated in 2023.

Google Workspace steering committee and operational committees have been defined with members of AGS, Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, and Edmonton branch. This project is one of the key strategic initiatives of AGS.

Shared Use Agreement

A working group was formed to review the AGS and AGS Edmonton Branch Shared Use Agreement. We continue to work on the implementation of this new agreement, which was effective January 1, 2023. A decision to outsource the electronic resource position to a third party has been incorporated into this agreement.

Trustee Term

The Trustee term ends on or before March 3, 2023. As this was a temporary position, there will be no further extensions of the trustee term as discussed at the January 12 AGS Edmonton Board meeting.

There is a full slate of volunteers being presented to the membership at the February 23 AGM.

It has been a pleasure to serve the AGS Edmonton Branch as Trustee during these unprecedented times.

Fort McMurray Branch



Tammy Grantham

Volunteer Hours 393
Membership 10

Executive Committee

President Tammy Grantham
Vice President Laverne Cormier
Treasurer Cathy Marriott
Secretary Dale Hannigan

So, another year has gone by... where does the time go? We get up each morning, complete some tasks automatically, complete some tasks with a little more thought, and then some tasks prove to take a lot of thought and even some action, but we work through our day getting done what we need to get done. Some of these tasks are for survival, and some of these tasks are just for our own complete pleasure. We like

doing these tasks. Genealogy is one of those tasks, the ‘pleasure tasks.’ We can sit in front of our research for hours on end and think that maybe an hour has gone by... oh, the shock we get when we actually look at the clock! Time to rush onto the next task. Well, I hope you were all able to ‘get lost in time’ and manage to make a new discovery, or organize that one family file, or find a photo of a long ago relative that shows just where that particular physical family trait came from.

As for our library, we have continued on bravely. With the lasting effects of COVID-19, and a lack of library usage on Wednesdays, the executive agreed to reduce our library hours to just Saturdays. We maintained our availability for having one-on-one appointments if requested. This feature was used a few times, but did not result in any new members. It seems that people are looking for someone to research their genealogy for them, rather than doing it themselves.

We held our AGM in February. Dale Hannigan agreed to be our secretary as well as our ‘computer person.’ He comes in regularly and updates the computers and makes sure all is running well.

Our casino was held in April. We certainly appreciate all our volunteers, a lot of whom are not even members of our Genealogy Library, that help us out time after time for this event. Our proceeds were the lowest that we had ever received since we started holding a casino event back in 2008. The received proceeds will cover our bare minimum expenses for approximately 18 months. We are scheduled for our next casino in the 3rd quarter of 2023.



In the early months of the New Year, we continued making and posting (on *Facebook* and *Instagram*) short videos, also called reels, that we hoped would grab the public’s attention and bring them down to our library. While they did seem to grab attention on FB, they got many likes, but still no new faces in the library, no new members. Our FB traffic numbers did increase, but that is sort of a moot point when the numbers are not turning into members.

I have been helping a lady from BC. She initially contacted us through our webpage. She was looking for relatives that lived in the Fort McMurray/Lac La Biche regions. She had contacted LLB for help, but received no reply. I was able to help her by looking through our LLB Mission records. I found some of her family in there. We have a late 1800’s map of the LLB region with the land plots marked out on it and the names of the owners. One of her people was on the map; she was very happy to get photos of that. In helping her, we realized that the LLB Mission records are very scarce, thus difficult to

find. This knowledge eventually led to a conversation with Kurt Paterson and we may have taken the long route around, but we eventually came to the conclusion that these records really needed to be added to the AGS Alberta Records Name Index Project. So those records have been copied and digitally sent to Shannon Cherkowski. Hopefully they will soon be on the AGS database and able to help many more people.



Grande Prairie & District Branch

Maxine Maxwell

Volunteer Hours 797

Meetings

Executive meetings were rescheduled for the first Wednesday of the month following the expanded style of an executive committee of nine members, we met in person, most of the time, carrying out the business of the branch.

General meetings were rescheduled for the third Wednesday of most months, the format being a business meeting, followed by a genealogical program, often resulting with a small turnout.

We heard two prominent local speakers; Pat Wearmouth, President of the South Peace Historical Society and Ellyn Vanderberk-hove, CEO of the South Peace Historical Society. Pat's presentation on April 5th was entitled "George Dawson: Surveys of the Peace – 1879." Ellyn's presentation on

October 19th was called "Genealogy and Archives". Both presenters were engaging and their presentations informative to those attending.

At our May 19 AGM, we were pleased to welcome Bradley Pierson from Edmonton, our 2020 Margaret Kay Bursary Recipient. He spoke via ZOOM, on "Finding Your Distant Relatives on Social Media." Bradley's enthusiasm and upbeat style was an inspiration to the Branch.

We experimented by holding Zoom meetings when necessary, and a hybrid format for the

Annual General Meeting, hoping to include our out-of-town members. This venture was moderately successful at first, but seemed to gain favor over time giving us encouragement to continue pursuing it.

Programs and Community Events Participation

We experienced a slow post COVID-19 recovery in organizing any community outreach events. However, we did host the AGS's Genfair and AGM on April 23, 2022 in hybrid format. We sponsored two outside presenters via Zoom – Deanna Bullock and Janice Nickerson – whose sessions were well attended and received. We hosted six attendees in person from the Edmonton area and around eight locally with a good number both locally and provincially by Zoom. We felt it was a very successful event coming out of the previous restrictions.

Queries and Research

Volunteer services have been recovering slowly but steadily since the library hours have returned to normal. I am pleased to note that our volunteer researcher has coordinated her efforts with other community resources such as the South Peace Regional Archives and the Société Historique et Généalogique de Smoky River/Donnelly to help clients with queries. Our faithful Genies resumed receiving clients in the Isabel Campbell Room on the second & fourth Wednesdays.

Branch Library

Our library is undergoing a steady make-over as our librarian has completed sorting the books into separate circulating and reference sections, plus plans for disposal of the big collection of outdated newsletters. The decision on how to handle newsletters from other societies was made at the November general meeting; consensus was to email

current issues to the membership and file them on the GP website.

Branch Newsletter

Two editions, spring and fall, of the branch newsletter *Heritage Seekers* were published and circulated to members. It was discovered that during the pandemic, circulation to *Relatively Speaking* as well as other branches and societies had lapsed. We are working to restore these important exchanges.

Volunteer Recognition

Acknowledgement of branch members through The Grande Prairie Regional Association of Volunteer Organizations' Volunteer of the Week Program had been on hold during the Pandemic, but has since resumed. Our volunteer award coordinator has agreed to continue this valuable service of acknowledging our hardworking members.

Branch Databases

Modest expansion of our databases continue as has indexing of obituaries from local newspapers to the branch's obituary online index. Funeral home obituaries continue to be collected, printed and added to binders in the Isabel Campbell Room.

Social Media Accounts

The Grande Prairie & District Branch of the AGS *Facebook* group insights go back to Feb 9, 2022. On this day there were 150 members. As of Dec 31, 2022 there are a total of 157, a growth of 7 members. Many of the total members are inactive and not contributing. Since Feb 9, 2022 there were 54 posts, 52 comments, 160 reactions to posts (likes, comments.) Our Group *Facebook* Administrators conscientiously work to keep it current.

Website

We are feeling like our branch website is showing its age and is in urgent need of an update. It still contains useful links to our free Obituary Index and Grave Marker Databases and the '*Follow Up with Me*' link is for outsiders to send request queries to our Research Committee. However, it is integrated with the AGS Website and the coordination required to maintain it is cumbersome and difficult for our own administrator to navigate. So, making our website more effective is a priority for us in the near future.

The Members Only feature is up-to-date and is used to access previous editions of *Heritage Seekers* newsletters, meeting minutes plus branch subscriptions to Newspapers.com, *MyHeritage.com* and the DNA Bootcamp Webinars.

Margaret Kay Memorial Bursary

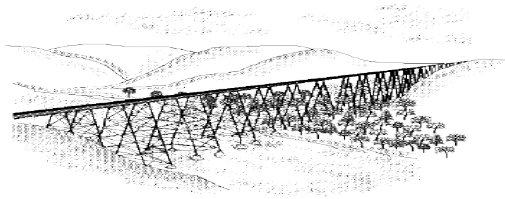
The 2022 Bursary, in the amount of \$1500 was awarded to Trish Fedeyko-Millard to further her studies in the U.S. on Forensic DNA. She has generously agreed to present some insights into this fascinating world at our January 2023 General Meeting.

Awards and Donations

Several of our members were honoured for long-term service awards by AGS:

Fran Moore – 40 years, George and Carol Parsons – 25 years. *Heritage Seekers* newsletter was presented with a 2021 Certificate for "Best Local Content" for an article titled "Documenting the Present" in the Spring 2021 issue. Grande Prairie Branch received a Special Mention Award for hosting the first ever hybrid AGM.

Lethbridge & District Branch



Marilyn Astle



Volunteer Hours 2413
Membership 45

Meetings

We held monthly general meetings by videoconference January through April, with February being the Annual General Meeting. A special meeting was held in February to approve the rental contract for our Resource Centre. September, October and November we held hybrid meetings with an additional special meeting in December due to technical difficulties preventing some members from joining the November meeting. There was also an informal meeting in the Resource Centre in October to address some member concerns.

Presentations

January: Member sharing of research successes and challenges.

February: Deb Wickham from AGS Medicine Hat – *Sourcing your Information – How we do it, why we do it and how we use it?*

March: Dave Maze from Lethbridge College – *Facial Recognition.*

April: John Althouse – *Researching the Roots of My Ukrainian Canadian Family.*

September: Mike Paterson from First Choice Photo/Paterson Photography, a Lethbridge based business – *How, where and where not to store valuables such as certificates, photographs, etc.*

October: George Kush at International Dinner: *RCMP 150 years of Service.*

Other Gatherings

In May we met informally at a picnic in a city park. June's planned field trip to the Crowsnest Pass was cancelled due to weather. In November members visited the Lethbridge Military Museum. These events were all organized by Velda Sjovold who coordinates speakers for the regular meetings. The Legacy special interest group met regularly during the year.

A successful International Dinner was held in October after being cancelled for two years. Win Evans and Lauren Tetzloff organized the event as they have done for some years.

Our Facility

Due to the work of Pat Barry, we were able to negotiate a somewhat lower rent for our Resource Centre than initially offered by the provincial government and the lease was approved with reluctance and concern due to our financial position. As we gave up the basement storage area, Doug McLeod coordinated the removal and dispersal of stored, no longer needed materials. Additional locations were reviewed, some with some additional site visits. The branch made representation to the City of Lethbridge requesting that the Bowman Centre, a local historic building, be made available to not for profit community groups such as ours. A response had not been received by year end.

Other Projects & Activities

Our Resource Centre was open to the public three afternoons a week since March. 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 200 members by the end of 2022 compared to 136 members in 2021, 89 in 2020 and 50 in 2019. 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.

Doug McLeod travelled to Edmonton in March to assist with a joint AGS and Edmonton Branch casino. Wendy Warren and I continued with the *Relatively Speaking* editorial team.

Several long-time members, Pat Barry, Eleanor McMurchy and Doug McLeod, had to cut back their participation during the year due to personal circumstances. The Branch is grateful for their many contributions over the years.

Belinda Crowson, a Lethbridge AGS member, was one of five Lethbridge residents who received Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medal.

Conclusion

As 2022 ended, our major concerns continued to be finding an affordable and suitable facility for our meetings and library, increasing our membership numbers, and the related challenge of volunteers willing to take on various responsibilities. My appreciation goes to all who continue to support the branch, in particular the other members of the current executive team: Julie Miller, Barry Simmonds and Kieran

Biggins. Since my move from Lethbridge, Barry has chaired all branch meetings.

I will be continuing as a member of Lethbridge Branch and, as past president, will assist the branch however I can from my new location.

Medicine Hat & District Branch



Web: <http://mhdgs.ca/>
E-mail: mhgs@shaw.ca



Don Zimmer

Volunteer Hours 1834
Membership 57

Executive Committee

President	Don Zimmer
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Faye Knoblick
Treasurer	Debra Wickham
Past President	Dwight Brown

Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month, format being the business meeting followed by a genealogical program. Our AGM is the first Wednesday of February.

At the February AGM 2022 the new Executive as above was voted into office.

Monthly meetings via Zoom held January through June 2022. Our first in-person meeting (in 2.5 years) was held in September 2022, Hybrid meetings were held successfully (we have adequate equipment and capability) in October 2022 through January 2023. Unfortunately, there were not enough members in attendance to form a quorum at the November 2022 meeting. No meetings were held meetings in July & August.

Only three programs were presented in 2022 due to a lack of a program's chairperson. Other vacancies include Vice President, Newsletter Editor and more recently Cemeteries Chairperson.

Certificates Received

Long Term Certificates; presentation by Deb Wickham & Melvin Binder to the following members at June 2022 meeting

1 Year - Mary-Ann Flug – Eleanor Kreiser – Roy Morrison – Gordon & Audrey Newman
15 Year - Alex Fountaine – Earl & Judy Morris
20 Year - Barbara Janecke – Lorna Veenstra
25 Year– Shannon Cairns

Long term certificates presented by Dwight Brown to the following members at the December 2022 meeting:

35 Year - Teresa and Richard Parasynchuk
40 Year - Elizabeth (Betty) Padfield

One of our members, Debra Wickham, has completed her Canadian Studies – Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies.

Computer

A new computer with Windows 10 was purchased for our Library. Funding for this was partially provided by a generous donation from one of our members. We will use the computer

for our bookkeeping system as well as the Cemetery databases as they are developed.

My Cloud back up storage was purchased and installed. This system will provide safe back up storage for the chapter for years to come.

Library

The library has been open to members only on Tuesday and Wednesday for 2hrs from 1 to 3 PM from April 2022 through November (excluding summer months). The library closed for December 2022

Four members continued volunteering to help look up requests from their home through our subscriptions to Genealogy bank, Newspaper Archive and Ancestry Newspapers in the first four months of 2022.

Projects:

Yearbooks scanning has been on hold since COVID. Unsure when we will continue.

Our member trip to Salt Lake City that was planned in May 2022 was cancelled due to last minute unforeseen circumstances. Another trip will be attempted in the future.

A joint Medicine Hat/Brooks Casino was held in October with each branch hosting one day.

Social Correspondence for 2022 - A total of 17 cards were sent out to members as follows: Thank you - 10, Sympathy - 6, Get well – 1. The cost of the cards plus postage is one of our member's donation to our local branch.

Medicine Hat continues to be a part of the Google Workspace initiative. Don Zimmer is on the Operational committee and has attended 2 meetings. This initiative is proceeding well.

Queries

We are still handling queries as before but the requests are way down.

Sammis Seeker

No issues of Saamis Seeker were published in 2022 as the position of editor has remained vacant. Scanned copies of our past newsletters are now available on the MHDGS website.

Social Media Accounts

At present we have 242 on Facebook and 134 followers on Twitter, providing a platform for members to keep up to date on upcoming events, genealogical resources and stories. This is up from the 2021.

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Computer, Germans From Russia and Genealogy Family Tree are still in place. Only Genealogy Family Tree met in person for a period in May and June, then in the fall as well but have since stopped meeting until spring when it's easier to travel.

Website:

The website continues to be of great use to many researchers across the world, mostly from Canada and USA. The scanning of the telephone books has stopped due to resources and time commitment. The books not scanned are the yellow pages books of Calgary and Edmonton, 1981 to 2001, and the numerical indexes of Calgary and Edmonton. Many of the original scans of the phone books were very large PDF's and difficult for researchers to view. All the oversized PDF's were broken into smaller files of less than 10 megabytes to make for faster viewing and cost savings to our society. We pay Amazon Web Services

for the viewing of the files per megabyte. The phone book project is considered by the webmaster to be completed. The records of the cemeteries in southeastern Alberta as seen on the website will be updated and the files rewritten in the coming few months. The webmaster hopes to

train another person to assist in programing the website, looking into the future.

Our website continues to receive between 1000 and 1500 hits monthly with many users coming back a number of times. We have seen up to 2100 sessions in a single month. Countries using our website include: Canada, USA, Great Britain, China, France, Indonesia, Mexico, India and many others. Our webmaster is a MHDGS member and he continues to update and upgrade the site.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Zimmer, President
Medicine Hat & District Genealogical Society

Red Deer & District Branch



Lauranne Hemmingway



Volunteer Hours 1710
Membership 57

Executive Committee

President	Lauranne Hemmingway
Vice President	Lianne Kruger
Secretary	Patricia O'Neill
Past President	Janice Duffy and Diane Lehr
Treasurer	Raymond Cyr
Membership	Jean Boxer
Library	Kelly Fairholm
Publicity	Joan Schmelke
Cemetery	Vacant
Genealogy Queries	Carren Ross

Membership

- I expect we are missing many volunteer hours because fewer members have been attending meetings than previously. It is difficult to estimate the hours uncaptured.
- Red Deer branch meetings met only via Zoom since the pandemic until our first in-person meeting in April/22. We have been offering hybrid meetings (Zoom and in-person) since May/22. We have been able to do this with the assistance of Henday Association of Lifelong Learning – director and borrowing their equipment until we purchased what was needed (again with Donna Arnold – Director's help). She has

been volunteering by attending all meetings and operating the equipment and training since May/22.

Activities to Support Membership and Attract Members

- Held a contest for all new and existing members who paid their membership dues by 1 January 2023. This is the second year of this contest.
- Surveyed all members to determine the location of ancestors they are researching and what topics they would like presented at meetings. The speakers for the meetings have

been responding to the results of survey completed by members two years ago.

- All members who have e-mail are sent a copy of meeting agenda and minutes.
- Attempted to have a 6-month plan of meeting topics/speakers listed on website, but have not been successful with executing this plan.
- Special Interest Group for Red Deer with focus on writing Family History Stories started July 2022 with Diane Lewis as chair.

Educational Opportunities and Research

- Wanted a speaker or webinar for each meeting. Topics are driven by the needs expressed in the survey.
- Members received an e-mail promoting educational opportunities offered by SIGs.
- Promoted Roots Tech, GenFair, AGS website *MyHeritage* perk for all AGS members.
- Promoted joining Genealogy Societies of other provinces where ancestors lived.
- Updated our library holdings at the Archives. This list is included on our website so members know what is available in our library before going to the Archives.
- RD Genealogy Society's computer at the Archives has the Newspaper Archives free for members to use.

Collaboration

- Red Deer branch collaborates with the LDS Church in co-sponsoring the Family History Fair – one day workshop planned for April 2023.
- Collaborates with LDS Church in having a couple of our volunteers working with LDS members at the Family History Library after it re-opened since the pandemic closure.
- Collaborated with the Red Deer Writers' Ink by inviting them to attend a speaker session – an author who self-published history stories about central AB community.

- Invited Writers’ Ink members to write articles for *Relatively Speaking* – on themes wanted with view to publishing their stories.
- Collaborated with Henday Association for Lifelong Learning in offering hybrid meetings to members. Also invited RD AGS members to attend free Tech Talk sessions offered by Henday Association.
- Henday Association helped us out by offering a space on Zoom with the Let’s Connect Zoom account for our meetings on the third Thursday from 7 – 9 pm because our meeting times were the same time as Lethbridge AGS.



Volunteer Hours 1517
 Membership 28

Executive Committee

President	Alice Hoyle
Vice-President	Lorraine McKay
Secretary	Pam Cooke
Treasurer	Lee Koop

Projects

Archives – our branch is still involved with Archives activism. The City of Wetaskiwin Archives continues to be closed. In 2022 the City of Wetaskiwin put out an Expression of Interest (EOI) request to various organizations within the community, asking if the organization would be interested in taking over management of the City Archives.

Wetaskiwin branch declined to submit an EOI application due to the conditions stated in the City’s EOI request. Our branch members do not have the expertise (Archival Management training), nor does our branch have the number of members who would be able to staff the Archives. We also learned that the Civic

Building, where the Archives was located, has been sold. The new owners have advised the city that they would allow the Archives to remain in the same building, however, the Archives space would be considerably reduced.

Wetaskiwin Branch



Alice Hoyle

We were told that one organization submitted an EOI to the City; however, in our Zoom meeting with City officials, we were advised that the city was not willing to share the identity of the organization. They advised that the submission would be presented to City Council in December of 2022. As of December 31, 2022, we await the outcome of the EOI submission to Council.

Branch Library – As of December 31, 2022 our library remains closed as it had been housed within the City Archives.

Community Outreach

As with most of the branches, Wetaskiwin branch's options for community outreach were greatly reduced because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In December, the Family History Centre did re-open with some of our members volunteering as consultants at that facility.

Education and Training

Except for June, our branch meetings were via Zoom during 2022. At each of our meetings our Program Coordinator, Claudia Malloch, provided us with webinars, training sessions or group information sharing sessions after the business part of our monthly meetings. Many of our members also regularly attend webinars hosted by genealogical societies in various locations. We have all gained a wealth of knowledge from these webinars, including those hosted by AGS.

GenFair 2022

Seven of our branch members virtually attended the GenFair hosted by Grande Prairie. Our newsletter editor, Sharon Aney, received her 5th Kenneth Young Newsletter Award, this time for "*Best Overall Branch Newsletter*". Congratulations, Sharon! She continues to encourage our branch members to submit articles for our branch newsletter.

Monthly Meeting Presentations

January – “What are your Goals for 2022?” Branch members shared what they planned and hoped to accomplish in 2022, either personally or as their plans relate to genealogy research.

February – We had three presentations: “Organize your Digital Files in 3 easy steps”; “Write Faster with Word Editing Tips”; and “How to View those Negatives in your Life.”

March – “Roots Tech”: branch members shared which presentations they had watched and gave feedback on which presentations they found particularly useful.

April – “Family Stories in 30 Minutes or Less” – very useful information provided by Brenda Hudson, PhD, suggesting that we write in 15-30-minute blocks of time.

May – Two presentations by Amy Johnson Crow: “PERSI – Find Millions of Clues with this free website”; and “Start your Genealogy Research Right – Avoid these Common Mistakes.”

June – We had an in-person meeting, with branch members asked to share their summer plans with the membership. In celebration of meeting in-person, snacks and a decorated cake were provided, and we enjoyed the opportunity to be meeting together again.

September – “Making YDNA and MTDNA Part of your Family History” – a presentation by Diahan Southard – detailed information about the two tests and how they help us make connections with extended family members.

October – “Hidden Stories – Exploring the Unexpected in Family History Research” – a presentation by Jennifer Zinck, CG – two sample research questions were explored.

November – “Military Stories from our Branch Members” – several branch members shared the story of their family members who served in WWI and WWII.

No meeting in December.

Volunteerism

Our branch members still volunteer their time doing research for the requests that are sent to us via the AGS website, phone calls, or emails. As well, several members do volunteer research for those who contact them personally. Branch members also volunteer at the Family History Center in Wetaskiwin; one of our newest members is the newly appointed Director of the FHC.

Branch Members’ Contribution to our Branch Newsletter and to RS

In 2022 our branch members contributed several articles to our branch newsletter as well as to the AGS publication *Relatively Speaking*.

Community Involvement and Recognition 2022

On October 15, branch member Bob Maynard was honoured by the Millet Museum and Archives. A new display, “Bob Maynard: Life and Letters” highlights the life of Bob’s family and displays some of the hundreds of memorabilia preserved by Bob. The memorabilia shows what life was like for a family in England and in Africa, when Bob’s family was employed on that continent in the twentieth century.

Welcome, Calgary branch! We send our congratulations to you and your members on becoming the newest branch of AGS.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI)

Norma Wolowyk



AGS members began recording information from grave markers and cemetery written records soon after the formation of the Alberta Genealogical Society in 1973. At first these recordings were printed in *Relatively Speaking*.

The first being eight names from the Frog Lake Historical Site Cemetery recorded by Frank Easton and D'Arcy Hande, who are two of the nine AGS founding members. In 1981 AGS began publishing recordings in booklet format. Then, in the 1980's with the arrival of the computer and dBaseIII, a program was developed to enter, store, search and print cemetery recordings. Through the years this computerized database was known as the *AGS Data Bank*, *AGS Cemetery Database*, *AGS Master Cemetery Database*, *AGS Master Surname Database* and then the *AGS Surname Database*.

Fast forward to September 2021 when Marion Rex, Grants and Fundraising Chair, completed a grant application to Edmonton Heritage Council for a Change Capital Project Grant. The grant would enable AGS to retool and standardize the existing database of over 800,000 records collected over 48 years. The grant application was successful and AGS was able to contract to Dwayne Holmberg of *Other Machines* to be the lead developer and project manager for the development of the background search tool and website design. The project had a completion date of September 2022.

With the new look came a new name and in June 2022 the database was renamed the Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI). A soft launch of ARNI went live from the *OtherMachines* website on 7th September. Later in the month both AGS members and non-members were able to search 867,123 records on ARNI. Once members create a password, they are given access to the complete record information while non-members can access limited details. The data originates from cemetery written records, grave markers, local history books, newspapers and life events records (births, marriages and deaths). Thanks to the dedicated efforts of data entry volunteers during 2022 ARNI ended the year with 1,039,779 searchable records!

AGS gives sincere gratitude to Shannon Cherkowski for her counted hours and her many, many uncounted hours of work in standardizing the data from the records. ARNI could not have happened without her expertise and organizational skills. Gratitude is also expressed to Edmonton Heritage Council for the grant making possible the hiring of Dwayne Holmberg of *OtherMachines*. To Dwayne we give gratitude for his guidance, his calm and patient manner in handling all our questions, and for making us believe that YES, this can all happen. He made a dream of many dedicated volunteers over many, many years come true in 2022.

Archivist

Norma Wolowyk

As AGS Archivist I continued to collect materials throughout 2022 for eventual deposit at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. I express my sincere appreciation to Mary Ann Legris, past AGS Archivist for her thorough notes and reports on previous PAA deposits. They have given me great guidance as I sort through materials. During 2022 I contacted the PAA Private Records Archivist and received advice

on the best format to use in listing items for deposit. During 2022 I completed an Excel spreadsheet listing AGS membership numbers assigned to new members for the years 1973 to 2002. These numbers and names were recorded in the historic blue books stored in an AGS office filing cabinet. Starting in 2001 the membership list was entered onto computer and new members were no longer listed in the blue books. The Excel file, *AGS Membership-Names from Historic Blue Books, Nos 101-4711, 1973 to 2002* was emailed to Jackie Pearson, AGS Office Coordinator, in July 2022.

Gaming

Laura Turnbull Volunteer Hours: 103.5



AGS Casino event:

AGS members worked a casino event on March 20 & 21, 2022 at Century Casino in Edmonton. In total, 42 volunteers 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.

Casino Volunteers Hours: 390 hours

The proceeds from this event were received May 26, 2022 for a total of \$79,287.52. This was an increase of \$ 4,996.65 over our last casino in 2019 and the 3rd highest amount received since 2006. Of interest will be that this was the 18th casino that AGS has been able to have since we were first approved in 1990.

We received notification on December 19, 2022 that our next casino event is scheduled for the 1st Quarter (January, February, March) of 2024. I will be looking for volunteers starting in late 2023 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.

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:

Several Branches held casino events in 2022:

- Fort McMurray had their casino on April 19 & 20, 2022 and received the proceeds of \$32,420.24 in August, 2022. They also received notification that their next casino is slotted for the 3rd Quarter (July, August, September) of 2023.
- Brooks / Medicine Hat had their casino on October 6 & 7, 2022 in Medicine Hat and will receive the proceeds from this in February 2023.
- Grande Prairie received notification that their next casino will be January 23 & 24, 2023 in Grande Prairie.

Genealogy4Youth

Marion Rex



Volunteer Hours: 89 hours

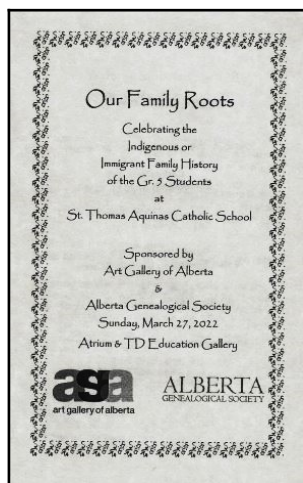
Genealogy4Youth Kits Available at Drayton Valley Library

Drayton Valley Branch along with the Drayton Valley Municipal Library collaborated to make the Genealogy4Youth material developed by John Althouse of AGS available during COVID-19 and beyond. The books were

divided up to coincide with the workbooks provided along with a letter from the Drayton Valley Branch and a permission slip, should the participants choose to write or prepare something that could be published in *Relatively Speaking*. The kits available include:

- **Genealogy Kit 1** – My family now and in the past, ages 6-8
- **Genealogy Kit 2** – Our family home: here in Alberta and far away, ages 9-11
- **Genealogy Kit 3** – In search of your Immigrant Ancestor, ages 12-14

Each kit has been borrowed six times with a few renewals, with more than one child using each kit. Drayton Valley has printed out Certificates of Completion that are given out by the Library Staff when the kit is returned and completed workbook is presented. This has been a very successful initiative and is especially popular among the Homeschool group.



Student Family History Projects in Spruce Grove

155 students at St. Thomas Aquinas School completed family posters about their First Nations or Immigrant Family History as part of Social Studies (First Nations history and immigrants to Canada). Lou Duigou,

retired Edmonton Catholic Schools Area Superintendent, and Lynne Duigou, retired Edmonton Catholic Schools Assistant Principal and AGS Past President, judged the students' posters choosing 46 posters for exhibition at the Art Gallery of Alberta based on their genealogical content, documentation, family tree, story, and presentation of material.

Art Gallery of Alberta

On Sunday, March 27, 2022 the Alberta Genealogical Society presented 46 Grade 5 St. Thomas Aquinas School, Spruce Grove students with certificates for the completion of a poster on their Indigenous or Immigrant Family History. Sponsored by the Art Gallery of Alberta the students' posters were on exhibition for almost a month in the TD Learning Gallery. The students on display researched the following: Austria, Belgium, Canada (including Cree, Dene, Métis, Papaschase), China, England, France, Galicia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Ukraine, and USA.



Cathy Roy of the Edmonton Heritage Council, Mayor Jeff Acker of Spruce Grove, Trustee Gerald Bernakevitch, Principal Lynnette Tarr, Assistant Principal Keri Cyr and several Grade 5

teachers were present to congratulate each of the students with "COVID-19 safe" fist bumps. 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 180 students, parents and family members gathered for the presentation of certificates, the gallery viewing, and the juice and cookies reception sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. A newspaper account of the event was published in the Friday, April 1, 2022 edition of the *Spruce Grove Examiner*.

Youth Articles in *Relatively Speaking*

In 2022, two articles were written by Grade 5 students at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Spruce Grove for the *Youth Write On* column in *Relatively Speaking*.

- In the spring issue, Volume 50, Number 2 (May 2022), the four-page article (pp. 82-85) written by Nate Barron, "*My Family's Journey from*

Galicia to Canada”, was based on the immigration poster that was one of those displayed at the Art Gallery of Alberta in March 2022.

- In the fall issue, Volume 50, Number 4 (November 2022), the two-page article (pp. 172-173) written by Parker Getz, “*William Black Sr. and his Journey to Canada*”, was based on the immigration poster that was one of those displayed at the Art Gallery of Alberta in March 2022. His was the 33rd article written by youth and published in *Relatively Speaking* since 2015.

GenFair 2022



AGS Grande Prairie Hosted the biennial GenFair and the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society at Grande Prairie Public Library on April 23, 2022.

The activity was the first major hybrid event hosted by the branch. The successful hosting of this event was made possible by the support of library staff and branch members using the reliable internet and audio facilities available in the room.

Sixteen participants gathered in person in the GPPL Rotary Room and were joined by 83 members using remote access on the Zoom platform to participate in the GenFair learning activities.

There were three GenFair presentations:

- What’s New at Family Search.org
- Breaking Down Brick Walls-A Case Studies Approach
by Deanna Bullock, a genealogist from Cochrane, AB.
- Breaking Down Brick Walls-The Genealogical Proof Standards Approach

by Janice Nickerson, a Toronto, Ontario based genealogist.

Following the presentations, participants engaged in moderated Q and A sessions with each of the presenters.

Grants/Other Funding Committee

Marion Rex



Volunteer hours -190

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 and Fall Retreat 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 Branch, and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

- **Historic Resources Management Branch (HRMB) Sponsorship**—The Provincial Heritage Organizations are under the umbrella of the Historic Resources Management Branch, funded by the Government of Alberta through the Heritage Division of Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women. In 2021, AGS received **\$29,000** (\$29,000 in 2021) which was applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations, and general administration.
- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2022, AGS received **\$26,964** in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton (\$26,964 in 2021). This funding helps provide both staffing and operational support.
- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Change Capital Project Grant**—In 2021, AGS applied for and received a change capital project grant for the Alberta Records Name Index project in the amount of **\$19,480** on September 7, 2021. Of that amount, \$9110.78 was spent in 2021 with the remaining \$10,369.22 being expended in 2022. The project went live in September 2022. Our sincere thanks to Edmonton Heritage Council for making this project possible.

Alberta Heritage Awards

Through my work with the Historic Resources Management Branch (HRMB), I receive notification about the Alberta Heritage Awards presented every two years. In 2022, Lynne Duigou and I nominated the Archives group for an Outstanding Achievement Heritage Award offered by HRMB. Since 1989, an amazing

group of volunteers from the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) has been providing ongoing service to Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA). The current group of AGS PAA volunteers includes the following amazing list of long-time members of AGS—people who are dedicated to facilitating the easy access and preservation of materials of interest to those who are researching family history. It is because of their thousands of hours of meticulous indexing, rehousing and vigilant attention to detail to 17 different databases over the years that the general public now has increased ease of access to historical information on Alberta families.

1. Norma Wolowyk, #243 (joined AGS in 1975)
2. Pat Pettitt, #2342 (joined AGS in 1989)
3. Claudine Nelson, #2592 (joined AGS in 1990)
4. Doreen Dimitroff, #2673 (joined AGS in 1991)
5. John Hazelwood, #2955 (joined AGS in 1993)
6. Gordon Berdahl, #3138 (joined AGS in 1994)
7. Joan Green, #3629 (joined AGS in 1997)
8. Tony Locock, #3630 (joined AGS in 1997)
9. Liz Kohle, #4914 (joining AGS in 2003)
10. John Tedder, #5021 (joined AGS in 2003)
11. Linda Cherepanik, #5219 (joined AGS in 2004)

On October 3, 2022, Norma Wolowyk, Claudine Nelson and John Tedder, on behalf of the entire group, received the Outstanding Achievement Heritage Award at the Queen Elizabeth II Building (formerly known as Federal Building and changed soon after the passing of Queen Elizabeth II). Congratulations to a great team.

General Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses, and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$8,366.87 in donations. It was also decided by the Board to list donations given in memoriam in the annual report; this is being done for the first time in this publication.

- Provincial Office \$3,748.75
- Brooks 20.00
- Camrose -

● Drayton Valley	-
● Edmonton	1,382.15
● Fort McMurray	-
● Grande Prairie	598.67
● Lethbridge	370.00
● Medicine Hat	2,027.30
● Red Deer	185.00
● Wetaskiwin	<u>35.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$8,366.87</u>

Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2023. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report.

Local Histories on the AGS/AGS Edmonton book shelves.

Many AGS Edmonton Branch library volunteers were still willing to work a shift or two for the few patrons that came in to do genealogical research. Patrons were able to wear masks, use hand sanitizers and/or keep social distance according to the individuals comfort zone. There was a Volunteer Appreciation Tea in December – 27 attended.

Library carpets were cleaned during the Christmas break. The library was closed from December 15, 2022 and reopened January 10, 2023.

Library Users including staff: **TOTAL 1574**
Non members (included in above total): **87**

Note: non-member fee will be increased to \$10.00 per day in January 2023.

Library & Resource Centre

Claudine Nelson



Prior to the COVID-19 shut down I had arranged with the Edmonton Public Library to donate 6 Local History books which they did not have. At that time the library was undergoing major renovation so it was not until November

2022 that I was able to actually donate the books – all of them were donated duplicates of

Membership

Lynne Duigou



Membership Chairs meeting was held Monday 14 November 2022 on Zoom with nine of ten branches represented. We discussed the membership drive and ways to get members

to renew. Several branches send out reminder letters (both email and by Canada Post) and they shared them with the group. A discussion was held about creating a poster that all

branches could use. I was directed by the chairs to focus on the website and the problems renewing and buying memberships online. The chairs wanted to see the process simplified, streamlined, and a gift membership available. They approved of the addition of the use of E-transfer to pay for a membership.

Policies & Procedures/Bylaws Al Bromling



AGS policy review and development activity in 2022 was primarily carried out by the Executive and the Finance Committee in consultation with other stakeholders within the Society.

The Board approved

the following Policy Initiatives in 2022:

- **Policy VIII – 70 – Expense Policy** was approved as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- **Policy VIII – 90 – Funding Support Form** was approved as recommended by the Finance Committee, consolidating the previous VIII-90, VIII-100 and VIII-110 into a single policy.
- **Policy VIII – 210 – Longer Term Investment Planning Committee Policy** was established to provide investment advice to the Board in response to the Richard Nash Bequest.
- **Policy VIII – 220 – TechSoup Policy** was approved to guide the access to opportunities created by this membership.

The Board reviewed **Policy VII – 90 Special Interest Group Collaboration** and **Policy VII – 200 – Privacy Policy** and tabled these for consideration in 2023.

The Board endorsed changes proposed for **Bylaw 7.1 - Dormancy** and directed that the general membership be asked to vote by email ballot as set out in Article 5.6 the AGS bylaws.

Relatively Speaking



Lynne Duigou

Volunteer Hours: 143

I continue to act as Editor, the Themes for 2022 were:

- February – Black History Month and Settlements on the Prairies
- May – Adoption and Home Children
- August – The Dirty Thirties
- November – War Brides and Homefront Experiences

I worked with the new editor Linda Bolton-Holder to produce the February issue of *Relatively Speaking*. Unfortunately, Linda was not able to continue as editor due to illness and so I again, resumed the position of Editor of *Relatively Speaking* in May. We again advertised for a volunteer to take the Editor's position. We did not get any response.

In November the Board of Directors moved to allocate funds to hire an editor. They developed a *Relatively Speaking* Sustainability Fund and put aside \$3000 to hire an editor under contract. I advertised and Al Bromling, John Althouse and I conducted interviews for the Editor and in January 2023, hired Kate Wilson. Kate comes to us with an extensive background in editing and writing for newspapers as well as working for not-for-profit societies.

Research Services

Norma Wolowyk



The **Research Services Committee** for both AGS and Edmonton Branch AGS began meeting each Friday at the AGS Library in 1999 and has continued to do so since that year. We enjoyed having no lockdown restrictions at the AGS Library or

the Provincial Archives in 2022 due to COVID-19 concerns.

During 2022 research queries were handled by Gordon Berdahl, Shannon Cherkowski, John Hazelwood, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt and Norma Wolowyk. A great deal of the hours spent on queries during 2022 involved copying files requested in 2021 when there was either no access or limited access to the land records held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

A query database is maintained of surnames researched, submitter's name, locality of inquiry, the ID number assigned to each query and a description of where the query originated (eg. AGS submission form, Edmonton Branch email, phone call to Library, etc.) It is interesting to note that this queries database, started in 1998, now has 14,255 entries.

145 queries (205 in 2021) were processed for AGS during 2022. As Edmonton Branch AGS processed 143 (150 in 2021) the total queries handled by the Committee during 2022 was 288 (355 during 2021). It is interesting to note that during COVID-19 restrictions more queries were received. Payment by interac E-transfer was added as a payment option by AGS this year (2023) and has become the preferred method of payment.

Committee members participated in the Virtual Open House held by the AGS Edmonton Branch on 22 January 2022. A handout was prepared for distribution listing a selection of genealogical resources used by the Research Committee in responding to queries which included the databases available on the AGS website.

Five members of the Research Committee; Gordon Berdahl, John Hazelwood, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt and Norma Wolowyk were part of a group of Provincial Archives of Alberta volunteers that were awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award by the Alberta Government Historic Resources Management Branch for their contribution over the past 33 years in facilitating the easy access and preservation of genealogical records held at the PAA.

Thank you to Jackie Pearson, AGS Office Coordinator, for handling the mail and phone calls for the Research Committee and collecting payment information. Her prompt and efficient attention to these matters is very much appreciated.

Retreat

Susan Haga



The Retreat Committee for the past year consisted of Co-Chairs, Susan Haga, and Lynne Duigou, Past President. Our Annual Retreat was booked for September 23-25, 2022. We chose to hold a one-day Retreat to be held on Saturday, September 24th at the Edmonton Chateau Louis Convention and Conference Centre starting at 9:30 a.m.

with our Strategic Planning Work-shop with Shelley Williams. She has extensive experience and skills drawn from a long career in the Alberta non-profit sector. She also served as a volunteer with the Government of Alberta Board Development Plan. Our Executive had met with Shelley Williams in July and concluded our arrangements for a September 24th planning session.

In the afternoon our AGS Board Meeting was held at the Chateau Louis Convention and Conference Centre. Due to our 50th Anniversary Conference being held in September 2023 instead of April we have deferred our next Retreat to September 2024. Our existing deposit has been moved over to the Retreat 2024 planned at the Providence Renewal Centre.

AGS 50th Anniversary Conference

Al Bromling



In May 2022 the AGS Board began planning for celebration of the Society's 50th Anniversary in 2023. Two major elements are included:

- **Celebrating 50 Years of Alberta Genealogy** an in-

person conference on September 23, 2023 with a focus on the rich diversity of peoples that have come to form modern Alberta.

- **Achieving Gold**—Volume III of the history of the Alberta Genealogical Society 2013-2023 publication is being prepared under the editorial leadership of Bob Franz and key contributors from branches and committees which will be launched at the Conference ceremonies. Conference planning is the responsibility of the AGS Executive with support from key volunteers.

Webmaster

Lianne Kruger



WEBSITE

Membership Benefits

AGS offers access to *MyHeritageLibrary*, and *ARNI databases*, through our website as a member benefit. Edmonton Branch has ANI(Alberta Name Index) Family Search Affiliate Library, Ancestry, and Quebec's People. Some branches now have *Family Search Affiliated Library* access through their local public library.

The webmaster team consists of the following Members: Lianne Kruger (Social Media), Deb Boelstler, (website), Deb Trout (Zoom meetings and AGS Calendar) and Laura Turnbull (Facebook).

Statistics

abgenealogy.ca

- AGS Pages viewed 51,836

- AGS Website Users ~33,000
<https://www.agsbrooks.ca>
- Brooks District Pages viewed 11,513
<https://camrosegenealogy.weebly.com>
- Camrose Pages viewed 12
<http://abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch>
- Drayton Valley viewed Not available
<http://edmontogenealogy.ca>
- Edmonton Pages viewed 29,944
- Edmonton Website Users 5,707
- Edmonton Homestead Index 231
- Bounce to Homestead Records 88.46%
- Edmonton ANI Index 632
- Bounce to ANI Records 74.85%
<http://abgenealogy.ca/ft-mcmurray-branch>
- Fort McMurray Branch Not available
<http://abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch>
- Grande Prairie Branch Not available
lethbridgeags.theboss.net
- Lethbridge Pages viewed 46,177
mhdgs.ca
- Med. Hat Branch Pages Viewed 32,183
- Medicine Hat Website Users 21,938
- Bounce to Homestead Records 42.1%
<http://abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch>
- Red Deer Branch Not available
<http://abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch>
- Wetaskiwin Branch Not available

ALBERTA RECORDS NAME INDEX (ARNI)

The master surname database has been available for members to use since 2007 when Dwayne Holmberg of OtherMachines created

the online database for us. He has hosted the database since that time on his server at no charge to AGS. We would like to thank Dwayne for this wonderful service! Many genealogical answers have been found by the research team for the public and our members because this database was available online. (FYI: We pay \$300.00/year to MediaShaker for the hosting of the Homestead Database.) In 2022, we continued our work with Dwayne to reimagine the Master Surname Database into the Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI) which went live online in September. The new website page will look similar to what ANI (Alberta Name Index) looks like on the Edmonton Branch website. Thanks to the support from Edmonton Heritage Council for the grant which enabled us to put this amazing resource online.

MEETINGS

Jackie Pearson and Deb Boelstler post reports to the members-only section of the website in preparation for Board meetings. This has proven to be an excellent method of sharing information digitally.

Deb Trout, Zoom coordinator, through requests to abgenealogycalendar@gmail.com, continues to do an amazing job creating Zoom meetings for the executive, board and branches.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Thank you to all of those managing and posting to the various social media platforms on behalf of the branches and AGS.

Facebook (FB)

- AGS Only FB Likes 1,459
- AGS Only FB Followers 1,864
- Brooks & District FB Likes 89
- Brooks & District FB Followers 97
- Camrose & District FB Likes 41
- Camrose & District FB Followers 41

- Drayton Valley FB Likes 41
- Drayton Valley FB Followers 41
- Edmonton Branch FB Likes 1,079
- Edmonton Branch FB Followers 1,164
- Fort McMurray Branch FB Likes 400
- Fort McMurray Br. FB Followers 432
- Grande Prairie Branch FB Likes 157
- Red Deer Branch FB Likes 136
- Red Deer Branch FB Followers 155
- Lethbridge Branch public group – 202 members
 - Medicine Hat private group – 239 members

Twitter

- AGS Provincial Tweets 2,188
- AGS Twitter Followers 1,268
- AGS Impressions 7,389
- Medicine Hat Branch Tweets 19

- Medicine Hat Twitter Followers 101
- Medicine Hat Impressions 2,992

Pinterest

- AGS Pinterest Followers 113
- AGS Pinterest Monthly Views 19

Instagram

- Bradley Pierson took on running Instagram for AGS at <https://www.instagram.com/abgenealogy>
- Statistics are not available for 2022.

Mass Emails

AGS has the capability of sending mass emails to make announcements which has been useful for meetings, membership renewal, annual general meetings, *Relatively Speaking*, etc.



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

Membership Statistics

for the year 2022

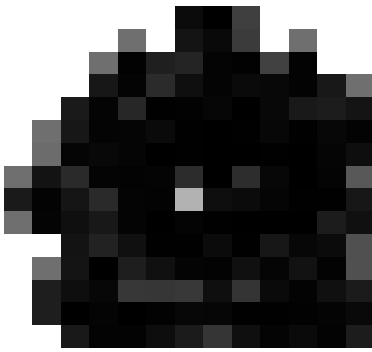
Branch	Primary Branch	Other branches added	Added branches	Total Branch Members	2022 New Members	Membership Type												Total Members	
						I	F	S	S+	L	L+	ST	YD	MKS	Hon	RS E	RS P		
AGS Only	32	0	0	32	22	19	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	15	32
Brooks	15	3	0	18	0	3	1	7	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	7	18
Camrose	20	8	1	29	3	6	2	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	8	29
Drayton Valley	5	1	0	6	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6
Edmonton	355	12	3	370	51	74	4	210	40	17	4	3	2	1	2	190	165	370	
Ft. McMurray	7	3	0	10	0	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	10
Grande Prairie	28	10	0	38	4	5	0	17	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	14	38
Lethbridge	38	5	2	45	5	7	0	22	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	31	14	45
Medicine Hat	51	5	1	57	1	12	0	29	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	20	57
Red Deer	51	4	2	57	5	8	0	38	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	16	57
Wetaskiwin	24	2	2	28	1	4	0	12	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	9	28
Totals	626	53	11	690	92	142	8	363	76	26	5	3	2	1	2	401	274	690	

LEGEND

Primary Branch Memberships purchased with just one branch (Home branch)
 Added Branches Number of branches added by branches members (\$10 each)
 Branch added Members who have added this branch to their membership
 Total Members Total Branch members (Primary + branches added)

Note: By adding Branch plus Home plus Associate equals Total Memberships

	# bought	Cost per	Total \$ collected
I Individual Membership	142	50	7,100
F Family Membership (additional members in the household)	8	55	440
S Senior Membership	363	45	16,335
S+ Senior Plus Membership (Additional members in the household)	76	45	3,420
L Life Membership	26	-	-
L+ Life Plus Membership (Additional members in the household)	5	-	-
ST Student Membership	3	5	15
YD Young Adult Membership	2	15	30
MKS Margaret Kay Scholarship recipient	1	-	-
RS E the number of members in that branch preferring a electronic copy of RS	401	-	-
RS P the number of members in that branch preferring a print copy of RS	274	10	2,740
Other branches added to membership	64	10	640
Membership Purchased			\$ 30,720
Membership			626
Life & Life + Members			31
Total Paid memberships			<u>595</u>
(Membership - (Life & Life +) = Memberships purchased)			



Alberta Genealogical Society

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

Phone: (780) 423-8902

Email: agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca Website: <http://abgenealogy.ca/>

2023 Branch Contact Information

Brooks & District Branch

President: Dave Clarke
Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4

Phone: (403) 362-8819

Website:

www.AGSBrooks.com

Meets 2nd Saturday of the month,
11:00 a.m. JBS Canada Centre
in the

Brooks Public Library
323 First Street East, Brooks

Calgary Branch

President: Susan Haga
185 Spring Bluff Boulevard
Calgary, Alberta T3H 5T6

Email

agscalgarybranch@gmail.com

Meets – 4th. Thursday – 7pm.

Email for location

Camrose Branch

President: Deb Trout
c/o 6130 – 39 Avenue
Camrose, AB T4V 3B1
Phone: (780) 781-5100

www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com

Meets 3rd Saturday of the month,
11:00 a.m. Camrose Public
Library

Downstairs Boardroom

Drayton Valley Branch

President: Connie Stuhl
P.O. Box 115
Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0
Phone: (780) 542-2787

Email:

ags.dvbranch@gmail.com

www.abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the
month, 6:30 p.m. Drayton
Valley Library, 5120 - 52 Street,
Drayton Valley

Edmonton Branch

President: Kurt Paterson
Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6
Phone: (780) 424-4429

Email:

president@edmontongenealogy.ca

www.edmontongenealogy.ca

<https://>

www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events

Fort McMurray Branch

9B, 10019 MacDonald Avenue
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1S9
Phone: (780) 743-3467

Email: ftmacgen@telus.net

www.abgenealogy.ca/ft.-mcmurray-branch

Grande Prairie & District Branch

President: Maxine Maxwell
P.O. Box 1257

Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1

Phone: (780) 512-6427

Email:

maxine.maxwell98@gmail.com

www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch

Meets 3rd Wednesday of month,
7:00 p.m. Grande Prairie Public
Library, 101, 9839 – 103
Avenue, Grande Prairie

Lethbridge & District Branch

President:

Phone: (403) 328-9564

Email: lethags@theboss.net

www.lethbridgeags.theboss.net

Meets 3rd Thursday of the
month, 7pm

Rm. 128, 909 – 3rd Avenue
North

Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5

Medicine Hat & District Branch

President: Don Zimmer

Box 971,

Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8

Email: mhgs@shaw.ca

Website: mhgcs.ca

Meets 1st Wednesday of the
month, 7:00 p.m. Medicine Hat
Monumental Co. Ltd., 974 – 13th
St. SW, Medicine Hat

Red Deer & District Branch

President: Jessie Dial

26 Piper Drive

Red Deer, AB T4P 1H6

Email: rdbrags@gmail.com

www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch

Meets 3rd Thursday of the
month,

7:00 p.m. LDS Church

3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer

Wetaskiwin Branch

President: Alice Hoyle

R.R. #3, Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 1X1

Phone: (780) 352-2150

Email:

wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca

www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch

Meets 3rd Tuesday (except July,
August and December)

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

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

- Active since 1973, 2022 was our 50th year of providing genealogical services to the community.
- COVID-19 challenged AGS and branches to stay connected to meetings and webinars via Zoom. Members were successful in using our knowledge to expand our use of technology for research.
- Membership for 2022 totalled 626 compared to 681 in 2021, 724 in 2020, 678 in 2019.
- Members reported 24,550 volunteer hours compared to 17,998 hours in 2021, 17, 559 in 2020.
- We held four Board of Directors meetings. The AGM was held as a hybrid meeting April 23, 2022 hosted by Grande Prairie Branch with attendance of 59 (20 in-person and 39 online members)
- The Annual Fall Retreat was cancelled. A one-day Strategic Planning Workshop on the four goals of the Strategic Plan was held. The goals were amended, discussed and ratified at the November board meeting.
- The total number signing into the AGS Library and Resource Centre in Edmonton including daytime visits and evening meetings was 1,574 compared to 1,222 (2021), 1,306 (2020).
- The Research Committee responded to 288 research queries from around the world compared to 355 in 2021 and 317 in 2020.
- We published four issues of *Relatively Speaking* including 15 first-time authors and 2 children / youth authors.
- 46 students had their genealogy posters on display at the Art Gallery of Alberta in the first ever collaborative project with AGS and AGA. A newspaper account of the event was published in the Friday, April 1, 2022 edition of the *Spruce Grove Examiner*.
- The Policies and Procedures/Bylaws committee continued their work, updating policies and bylaws.
- We secured a project grant from the Edmonton Heritage Council to digitize, standardize and update the Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI) entries in the master surname database. It went live on September 7, 2022 with 867,123 records and more added in the fall to now have over 1,000, 000 records in the index.
- AGS embarked on a project to renew, refresh and update it's website as the original was designed in 2014. Media Shaker has included new design and ease of operation. It will launch in Spring 2023.
- Twelve AGS members received the Heritage Resources Management Board Heritage Award for forty years of volunteer service to the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

- **Seventeen Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in Camrose (2), Edmonton (9), Lethbridge (1) and Medicine Hat (3) provide valuable research and discussion groups for attendees.**
- **AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, Casino, research queries, and grants from the Edmonton Heritage Council and Alberta Heritage Resources Management Branch .**
- **The Society continued to employ one part-time office coordinator and one part-time bookkeeper.**
- **AGS membership follows the calendar year so RENEW your Membership in November/December. We now offer a Gift membership for purchase.**

Proud beneficiary of the Historic Resources Management Branch through the Government of Alberta,

and the Edmonton Heritage Council through the City of Edmonton.

