



In This Issue:

Getting to Know You - Fern Dyck pg. 3

Duff Crerar WWII Sites pg.6

WWII Service of Emil Kowalsky pg. 7

Family History Day pg. 10

Old Newspapers pg. 11
Branch Info pg.13

GPAGS Branch Notes

As we wrap up the final quarter of 2015 it is satisfying to look back and appreciate the way our Branch members have met the challenges and enjoyed the successes of this past year. Our members have been active in a number of events--with our partners in Family History Day and the Global Family Reunion, in our provincial conference and with support roles in Heritage Days, Highland Games/Clan of the Day and other community activities. As well, members have continued to contribute to our indexing and database initiatives that are so important to both local and more distant users who are into the genealogy of this region. We are not a large club but we have a healthy membership of 48 and a core of volunteers that contribute immensely month after month.

During this quarter a large portion of our volunteer energy and leadership focus has been on the final development of the new Website. It was launched on November 7, 2015 and has been getting very positive ratings and some member help with final adjustments.

The website project was a cooperative effort between our Branch, AGS Communications Chair and software contractors. We provided funding to build several webpage templates similar to the provincial website. Communications donated over 1400 hours to the project in writing and editing content material, and designing. Local members have contributed several hundred hours to the project and even more to the databases and indexes. The developed templates are being made available to other AGS Branches who wish to further develop their regional websites.

The new website features progressive databases architecturally engineered and developed by Mediashaker. These databases are soundex, wildcard and truncation free. A new attribute will soon be added for volunteers to upload information through their mobile devices to a moderator. We are confident these features will increase the profile of the Branch, the provincial Society, and make searching easier for the end-user.

On behalf of our Grande Prairie Branch, I would like to sincerely thank Jean and Lyn and the Website committee for their hard work leading to this new Website. And thanks to Patricia who has agreed to serve as content manager for several segments of the Website. I encourage all members to spend time exploring the treasures of the site and the links to other features.

During this quarter we have commenced planning for our Family History Day event scheduled for February 20, 2016. We have agreed with our partners, the Archives and the Library, that the 2016 event will be on a smaller scale than the previous effort. The Planning Committee, Chaired by Mary Nutting, is developing a rich presentation using local resources and specialized webinars for the program.

Calendar

January 19th Meeting - Share a female ancestor's story.

February 16th Meeting - AGM

February 20th - Family History Day

