



Heritage Seekers

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Celebrating Four Decades

Members of the Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society gathered at the October 16th meeting celebrated four decades as a society, and took time to appreciate the past and look to the future.



Cathy Phillips with Ed Hall

We were honored to have two **founding members**, **Paulette Hrychiw** and **Cathy Phillips**, in attendance. These two ladies were at the Branch founding meeting in 1978 and shared some of their memories of the group of thirty three who gathered 'back then' to establish the Society. Participants paid tribute to two other founding members who continue to be active in the Branch,



Paulette Hrychiw with Ed

Carol Thomson and **Laura Turnbull**, who were unable to attend due to other commitments. Three long serving members, **Joan Bowman**, **Nora Hassal** and **Fran Moore** were also recognized for their contributions to the society. Many recollections of the Society were shared, including the various meeting places over the years, fund raising initiatives, and the long-standing alliance with and support from the Grande Prairie and District Library.

While enjoying the celebration cake and the company of friends, members also joined in a snap quiz about the history of the Branch. Only some of the questions were easy:

- which member served the most terms as President? (Judith Bradley, 6 years)
- which two members served a total of 27 years as librarian? (Gail Schau and Debbie Was)
- which two members each served 14 years as Heritage Seekers editor? (Joan Bowman and Judith Bradley)

President Ed Hall expressed appreciation on behalf of all for the exemplary contributions of Branch leaders over the last forty years.