

Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society will celebrate 25 years

SHARON ANEY
WETASKIWIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In 2000, 16 individuals gathered to form the Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society. The group applied to Alberta Genealogical Society and was accepted as one of its 10 branches.

Over the years the WGS has put on several genealogical workshops for the public. In 2006, it hosted a conference for AGS members from across the province.

In 2020, plans were finalized for another provincial conference in Wetaskiwin when the COVID-19 pandemic closed down all public gatherings.

Undaunted, the local group switched gears and in 2021 presented the previously planned conference online... to a record number of AGS attendees.

One of the branch's early endeavors was to advocate to the local Latter-Day Saints Church that the innumerable genealogical resources at Salt Lake City be available here. In 2004, the Family History Centre was opened at the Wetaskiwin LDS church. The genealogical records, as well as other databases can now be accessed online by genealogists here in Wetaskiwin.

Recognizing and using valuable resources in many archives

across the continent, in 2016 the society began advocating for the preservation of the Wetaskiwin City Archives, as the building in which it is housed was put up for sale. Now that Archives is managed by the Wetaskiwin District Heritage Museum Centre, society members volunteer to assist museum staff.

WGS will be celebrating 25 years of these and other accomplishments of individual members on May 31.

The event will be held at the Wetaskiwin Seniors Centre beginning at 10:30 am. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required. To register, email wetaskiwingenealogy25@gmail.com or call 780-360-7332.

Bob Layton, well known as an advocate of people writing their personal and family stories will be the keynote speaker at 11 a.m.



Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society charter members, Alice Hoyle, Sharon Aney Leah Jaburek and Patricia Ware cut the cake during the Society's 25th anniversary celebration. WETASKIWIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Celebrating 25 years of genealogy

Around 80 people attended the Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society's 25th anniversary at the Wetaskiwin Seniors Activity Centre Saturday.

Former charter members, Leah Jaburek and Patricia Ware joined active charter members president Alice Hoyle and newsletter editor Sharon Aney in the celebration, which was also attended by members of the Alberta Genealogical Society executive, and members of the Edmonton and Camrose branches.

Keynote speaker Bob Layton, former 630 CHED broadcaster

shared his thoughts on "How to Write Your Life Story".

As genealogists and family historians, the crowd appreciated Layton's helpful hints on how to write "our stories". He stressed the importance of those stories to our present and future families. A particular hint was to use photos to trigger ideas for stories about people or events. His humorous descriptions of how circumstance turned into writing opportunities made the idea of a story feasible to everyone.

Aney created a Special Edition of the Society newsletter that sum-

marized the activities undertaken and awards received by the organization and individual members over 25 years.

She hosted the afternoon program, beginning with remarks pertaining to the history of the Society.

Claudia Malloch and Nelda Layton spoke about the Wetaskiwin LDS Family Search Center, a major resource for genealogists.

Leah Johns, Archives Director at the Heritage Museum gave updated information on the City Archives which are now managed by the Heritage Museum.

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Rosella Plaquin showcased the historical scrapbooks she had created to preserve the activities of the society.

The day ended with the crowd viewing and discussing displays

by members Bob Maynard who displayed his English genealogy research, Pam Cooke's Maskwacis history books and pictures and Aney's brought family history books she had written.

Other displays were put on by the Genealogy Society, Creative Memories, the Wetaskiwin District Heritage Museum Centre and City Archives and LDS Family Search.

-Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who attended our 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 31, 2025 at the Seniors Centre, with Bob Layton as Guest Presenter. It was a special day and we were happy to share it with you.

*Wetaskiwin
Genealogical
Society*