

FOCUS on the Fort

SEPTEMBER
2004

Executive Director's Message

Fort Calgary wants to thank you all for another successful year. Over the summer, the number of visitors has increased substantially, and it is a pleasure to greet and welcome guests from around the world. What has been particularly rewarding is the number of first time visitors from Calgary! Word is getting out that this is great place to bring family and friends to learn about Calgary's history.

As always, there has been a lot happening at Fort Calgary. Summer plans have focused on restoration of the Deane House and the clean up of the 1875 Fort, following the fire. Fort Calgary is also very pleased to inform you that the new donor wall is now complete. Construction will begin in September on the park exhibit that focuses on the railway era at Fort Calgary, the two rivers and Goose Island. Our community garden continues to flourish and Fort Calgary proudly accepted the Calgary Horticultural Society's First place award in the Community Garden category.

Fort Calgary is busily planning this year's fundraiser scheduled for October 25, 2004. We are hosting "An Evening with Peter Van Stolk", owner and founder of the extremely successful "Jones Soda" Don't know what that is? Or who Peter Van Stolk is? - ask your kids! We will be sending out more information and details as the plans unfold.

Thank you as always for your commitment to building Fort Calgary. It is a pleasure to be surrounded by enthusiastic members, donors, volunteers and staff as we work together to achieve such wonderful things. I hope you had a wonderful summer.

The Deane House Restaurant Open for Business!!

Fort Calgary is very proud to report that Captain Deane's House is currently being restored. The exterior restoration began in early June and is scheduled for completion by October 2004. A new porch and wheel chair ramp, complete stripping, sanding and painting of the exterior and new roofing are all included in the project.

Captain Deane's house was built in 1906 and is the last remaining original RNWMP structure at Fort Calgary. It is very interesting to see this very important piece of Calgary's history come to life. The Deane House will be restored to its original colours. The exterior was a cinnamon/copper stain and the roof was a bright green. The Deane House will become quite a distinctive landmark on the Elbow River.

During the restoration, the Deane House remains open for lunch and brunch 7 days a week and is also available for private functions. The restoration is not anticipated to affect business in any way. For reservations, please call 269-7747.



Deane House: Monday to Friday 11 AM - 3 PM, Saturday & Sunday 10 AM - 3 PM, reservations recommended: 269-7747
Interpretive Centre: open year round: daily 9AM - 5PM (closed New Year's Day, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day)
Deane House and Officer's Mess are also available for private functions on evenings and weekends. Please call: 290-1875 ext.241
Fort Calgary, 750 - 9th Avenue SE, PO Box 2100 - Stn.M (106), Calgary, AB, Canada, T2P 2M5
phone: (403)290-1875 / fax: (403)265-6534 / email: info@fortcalgary.com / web: www.fortcalgary.com



News from Volunteer Resources

Since our last newsletter in May, Fort Calgary Volunteers have been involved in a variety of projects. As the school programs wrapped up at the end of June, the volunteer docents concluded one of our busiest years for school visits. Thanks to all of you who helped to accommodate the many classes who participated in our programs.

On Dominion Day, approximately 80 volunteers donated time to our special event as visitors came to our site to enjoy a pancake breakfast served up by our Board of Directors, musical entertainment, crafts and games. The RCMP Veterans' Association and the Youth Volunteer Corps joined our Special Event Volunteers in making our day a success.

As we shift our focus into planning for fall and winter programs, Volunteer Resources is recruiting volunteers to implement our school programs. This involves presenting curriculum-based museum programs to children in kindergarten to grade 6. Flexible schedules are available and training is scheduled for the end of September. For more information, call Dianne at 290-1875.

FORT CALGARY CONGRATULATES

The Community Garden Volunteers, whose contributions assisted Fort Calgary in winning first prize in the Calgary Horticultural Society Garden Competition.

Fort Calgary RCMP Veteran Volunteers Joe Nolan and Wally Wallace who were recently recognized for their volunteer contributions. Wally received the Commissioner's Volunteer Award while Joe received the Commanding Officer's Certificate of Appreciation. Both are Lifetime Award recipients for their volunteer service to Fort Calgary. *Photo at right Courtesy of RCMP Veterans' Association, Calgary Division.*

Thank You Fort Calgary Volunteers For Your Support of Our Summer Programs



Photo of Jack Crossley and Gus Kwaczek on Dominion Day. Photo by Ellis Bartkiewicz.

FORT CALGARY WELCOMES

The Canadian Soul Exhibition Hosts and the Summer Children's Program Volunteers. Thank you for joining our volunteer team and for assisting us in enhancing our regular summer programs for visitors.



FORT CALGARY SALUTES

The Deane House Garden Volunteers who under the guidance of *Carole Moore* have created a spectacular flower garden for all to enjoy. If you have not yet visited the Deane House Garden, be sure to do so before the summer is over!

The Parade Float Volunteers who designed and built our entry for this year's Stampede Parade and who participated in the event. Thanks for a job well done!



Photo of Board of Directors (Joe Nolan and Toby Lawrence) at Pancake Breakfast, Dominion Day. Photo by Ellis Bartkiewicz

THE FULL MOUNTIE! Red Serge Is Always In Fashion

The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede's Western Showcase 2004 previewed on the evening of July 7 with, among other things, a Western Fashion Show. One of the highlights was a segment outlining the development of the North West Mounted Police uniform. Four members of Fort Calgary's Interpretive staff; Scott Grant, Dave Weisgerber, Tim Cole and me, Bob Pearson, donned various versions of the uniform illustrating its evolution from 1873 to 1905.



The four of us, spit and polished to the hilt, marched onto the Round-Up Centre's stage each in turn. Our uniforms were described with a little detail by none other than the voice of Chuck Wagon Racing at the Calgary Stampede, Joe Carbury himself. Mr. Carbury had his work cut out for him. He was reading from a script written by yours truly and by now you are aware that I am no Hemmingway. The troop finished by saluting smartly and paraded off to the authoritative commands of Sergeant Weisgerber. If such events are to become a regular part of Fort Calgary's interpretation, a session on runway modeling might be added to the regiment of training.

The performance was well received as judged by the reaction of the audience. Afterward, we were much in demand for impromptu photo shoots. An encore performance is planned for Fort Calgary's volunteer recognition event on September 30. The Organizing committee has suggested that we work together on something for next year's Stampede. I for one can hardly wait.

Bob Pearson, Interpretation Coordinator.

Notes from our garden...

Another season is almost past its prime: the cabbages and turnips are enormous (!), but the pumpkins are all leaves and flowers. The goblins are going to be disappointed this year!



Quite a wet summer for Calgary ... who would have known? Last year it was a drought and we had to plant beets, beets, and more beets, because they were the only thing that did really well... and this year... we had to plant beets, beets, and more beets, because they were the only thing that did really well.

We only had a few four legged intruders in the garden this season, thanks to Ken and Rob. They added another level of mesh to our fence, but of course, now we have created a whole new generation of gophers that can climb!

Our labours in the garden were rewarded with a trophy this year: in The Calgary Horticultural Society Competition our garden won 1st place in the Community Garden category (hurray!) Thanks to all the hard work of our devoted team.

If any of you out there haven't been out the back to view the garden, you should. It's beautiful, and constantly changing as we harvest and replant. The wild flower garden is really wild and the grasses are gorgeous. The new aspens have grown by leaps and bounds and will be a great windbreak in the seasons to come.

The windmill and garden have attracted hordes of admirers this summer, thanks to Dee and the other front-end staff sending the guests around the back to view them and we appreciate the thoughtfulness.

See you in the garden!

Wendy, the Gardener

A Retiring Bonnie



Bonnie Danyluk joined Fort Calgary as a Volunteer Docent in 1990. In 1998, she continued her work with the children as our Education Assistant. Since then Bonnie has worked with our many dedicated Docents and Bob Pearson to present our Calgary Heritage Award winning programs, old and new, to thousands of school children. Children and Volunteers alike respond to Bonnie's dedication to Fort Calgary, enthusiasm for history and love of teaching. She has been a wonderful member of the Education Team at Fort Calgary but has decided to retire as of the end of September 2004. Bonnie and her husband Darryl will be travelling the world for various organizations but she has promised to return to volunteer at Fort Calgary between trips. Bon Voyage, Bonnie!!!

The Canadian Soul Exhibition



The Canadian Soul Exhibition has indeed been a "celebration of Canadians of African descent." Right from the Opening on July 1st the celebration started. Over 100 individuals sang spirituals with musicians Gary Martin, Melvin Crump (picture left), Craig Hayes and Bob Pearson, and listened to stories told by Miss Marybeth Orunamamu (picture right).

Members of the Black community, youth and adults, dedicated over 300 hours as hosts in the Gallery during July and August. They shared historical information, games and stories with Fort Calgary visitors. Visitors from around the world left comments in the Gallery stating that the exhibition was "wonderfully uplifting" and they were "pleased to have discovered this story of history". People of African descent found it "nice to read our past", and "appreciated [the] recognition given."

Miss Marybeth Orunamamu, brought her bags of goodies and her wealth of stories and shared them with visitors three afternoons a week throughout the summer. Her audience received "excellent soulful storytelling" and "lots of laughs".

The Summer Children's Program was based on the story of slaves fleeing the United States on the Underground Railway. Several hundred children participated in the programs.

Fort Calgary was pleased to host the Exhibition, which included "...and still I rise" from the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre in Hamilton, Ontario; and a complementary exhibit telling the story of the Black Community in Alberta. Fort Calgary extends our thanks and congratulations to Cheryl Foggo, Ann Fitze, Gary Martin, Dave Este and Michael Embaie, members of the Advisory Committee. Many thanks also go to Peggy Brown and Pearl Hayes who loaned family artifacts and to Mary Philbert, Lonnie Saunders, Peggy Brown, Pauline and Cheryl Foggo who shared family photographs. Melvin Crump graciously allowed Fort Calgary to use his photo to promote the Canadian Soul Exhibition. This collaboration provided visitors with an excellent opportunity to learn about Black history and to meet some Canadians of African descent who helped build our community.

Wendy Aitkens, Education Manager.

Fundraiser 2004

"An Evening with Peter Van Stolk", owner and founder of the extremely successful "Jones Soda"
October 25, 2004.



ATTENTION MEMBERS Calgary Zoo honouring Fort Calgary membership



From **September 20th until the 26th, 2004** Fort Calgary members are cordially invited to visit the Calgary Zoo. Simply present your valid 2004 Fort Calgary membership to the admission's staff and "Discover Life on Earth" Calgary Zoo.

2nd Annual Gift Shop Open House & Artisan's Fair

November 11th from 12 to 5 pm
Showcasing Artisan's, Crafters and Authors from Calgary and across the Province.

Fort Calgary's new Donor Wall

Every attempt has been made to record this information accurately. If you see an error or omission please let us know. The donor information plaques will be updated on a regular basis.

