

Happy 150th birthday St. Albert



Father Albert Lacombe 1827 – 1916



Today's presentation by Margaret Plain on
St. Alberta's 150th Birthday Celebrations

Welcome to the April breakfast meeting

Well spring has finally sprung and with spring comes a host of activities and events. As I write this newsletter Japan has been hit by another 7.1 earthquake. It is called an “after shock” which seems to me to diminish its importance somewhat. It is another earthquake. The Japanese must think that someone or something has it in for them at the moment.

Then, of course, we have a federal election. Our Prime Minister’s brief first visit was to encourage Albertans to “Keep Alberta Blue.” I suspect that it will not take much effort to do that. There certainly seems to be little support for any opposition to a Conservative sweep in this province! There are a few comments on the federal election later in the newsletter. As some of you can imagine the editor is incapable of staying silent on political matters.

Locally we have a birthday to celebrate, that of our city, 150 years old, and prospering. Our speaker today will give us an update on the planned activities to celebrate that birthday. There will be a little more on our founder further in this newsletter.

I don’t know whether any of you made it up to watch the Royal Wedding this morning, if you did you will probably need a quiet nap this afternoon.

Upcoming Activities

We have one more meeting left in this school year and that will be on **May 27**. It is the annual general meeting and this year there will be no elections since the executive was elected for a two-year term in 2010. The STARTA choir is scheduled to entertain us at the meeting. There will also be a travelogue presented by Friendship Force of their recent trip to Florida, Columbia and Ecuador.

Mayfield Dinner Theatre

We will be purchasing group tickets to the Wednesday, May 25, brunch production of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.” This

is a Tony Award winning Broadway musical. The cost will be \$54.43 (including GST). The deadline for purchasing tickets is April 30.

Interested members must submit payment to Dagmar Lietz at either the March or April STARTA breakfast meeting, or you can make arrangements to submit the payment directly by contacting Dagmar at bdlietz@mcsnet.ca.

Summer Activities

There will a number of summer activities, as usual, and you will be contacted by telephone regarding them at an appropriate time. There will be the STARTA golf tournament set for June 14 in memory of Rod Thronson. The registration form is on the back cover of this newsletter. There is also an ARTA golf tournament slated for St. Paul Golf and Country Club on June 15. The registration deadline for this tournament is June 10 and to register contact Paul Boisvert at 780-645-3409 or e-mail hawkow14@telus.net.

There will be the STARTA picnic in July and there will be our annual gambling day at the horses at Northlands in late August



Please do not forget to vote in the federal election on May 2, 2011.

More seniors vote federally than any other age group – your vote counts.

Local historian to be honoured

At its board meeting on May 11, 2011, the St. Albert Protestant School Board is honouring Dave Geddes with **Special Recognition** for his contribution to the District in his research and writing of *Building the Lighthouse—St. Albert P.S.S.D.#6—the first 25 years (1958-1983)*. The Board is also planning to buy a copy of the book for each of its schools and for the District Office. The meeting will be at the regular time and place and Dave invites friends and supporters, as well as those wishing to buy a book, to attend. He will also be given a few minutes to express his appreciation, especially he states “to all those who have already bought a copy thus helping me in the fight against poverty.”



How well do you know Père Lacombe' story

“Shortly after [Paul] Kane’s visit (1844-45) a young Canadian priest sponsored by the Oblate Order came to take Father Thibault’s place in the Edmonton area and Lac Ste. Anne. In 1852, Father Albert Lacombe, then twenty-five years old, left St. Boniface with the Hudson’s Bay brigade bound for Edmonton. At Cumberland House he met Chief Factor Rowand and travelled with him to their common destination. . . .At any time along the trails of the West for the next sixty-five years one might meet Father Lacombe in his tattered robe, or see his red and

white banner emerge around the next bend. All the West was his parish, but particularly so were Edmonton and Calgary. All the people of the West were his charge, whites, half-breeds, Crees Piegans; but, above all, he gave his life to the Blackfoot.” *A History of Alberta* by James G. MacGregor, Hurtig Publishers, Edmonton, 1972.

“As [Father Lacombe] moved up and down the line [of the CPR], covering thirty different camps, eating beans off tin plates in the mess halls, preaching sermons as he went, celebrating mass in the mornings, talking and smoking with the navvies in the evenings and recording on every page of his small tattered black notebooks a list of sins far worse than he had experienced among the followers of Chief Crowfoot. The wretched priest was overcome by a sense of torment and frustration. The heathen Indians had been so easy to convert! But these navvies—nominal Christians all—listened to him respectfully, talked to him intimately, confessed their sins religiously and then went on their drunken, brawling, blaspheming, whoring way totally unashamed.” *The National Dream: The Great Railway 1871-1881* by Pierre Berton, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1970.

Smile for the Court

The following are taken from a book entitled *Disorder in the American Courts*.

Attorney: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

Witness: He said, “Where am I, Cathy?”

Attorney: And why did that upset you?

Witness: My name is Susan!

Attorney: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

Witness: No.

Attorney: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

Witness: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Attorney: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

Witness: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

Politics, of course!

It would be very difficult not to talk politics at the moment with a federal election looming and provincial leadership campaigns in two parties. First then the federal scene: in a recent statement the Prime Minister stated that his party will now be able to produce a balanced budget a year early than was announced when the last budget was tabled a few weeks ago. Apparently he is reluctant to explain how this “sleight of hand” can take place but the speculation is that reducing the bureaucracy in Ottawa will be one of the principal ways. Perhaps just as a reminder to those of you who follow politics—in 1993/94 Alberta was running a deficit and in order to balance the books quickly the Premier sold off the liquor outlets across the province, blew up a Calgary hospital, cut the number of nurses and doctors and reduce government departmental spending by twenty percent. We are still living with that legacy in health care, roads, infrastructure, education, all of which need the attention that they did not receive while getting rid of the deficit. It was an example of false economy. Surely the federal government will not follow a similar path, although the Finance Minister has promised to assess all federal crown corporations and perhaps he can sell those at fire-sale prices to reduce costs, as New Zealand did.

At the provincial level, I am sure that you remember the debate over the seniors pharmaceutical plan that the then Health Minister touted was to save the government \$25 million! We are supposedly running a deficit in Alberta yet the Premier is now talking about helping to fund a new provincial museum structure in downtown Edmonton with possible high speed rail links to Calgary. Where did all the money suddenly come from—surely someone is not trying to buy our votes!!

A political smile!

Stephen Harper was visiting an Ontario primary school and the class was in the middle of a discussion related to words and their meanings.

The teacher asked Mr. Harper if he would like to lead the discussion on the word “tragedy” So he asked the class for an example of a tragedy.

A little boy stood up and offered “If my best friend, who lives on a farm, is playing in the field and a tractor runs over him and kills him that would be a tragedy.”

“Incorrect,” responds Mr. Harper, “that would be an accident.”

A little girl raised her hand “If a school bus carrying fifty children drove over a cliff killing everybody inside, that would be a tragedy.”

“I am afraid not,” explained Mr. Harper, “we would refer to that as a great loss.”

The room went silent. No other child volunteered. Mr Harper searched the room.

Surely someone can give me an example of a tragedy he asked.

Finally, at the back of the room, little Johnny raised his hand and said “If a plane carrying you, Mr. Ignatieff, Mr. Layton and Mr. Duceppe was struck by a friendly fire missile and blown to smithereens, that would be a tragedy.”

“Fantastic,” exclaimed Mr. Harper, “and can you tell me why that would be a tragedy?”

“Well,” said Johnny, “it has to be a tragedy, because it **certainly would not be a great loss and it probably would not be an accident either.**”



Silent Auction 2011

Report by Eryl Jones

Our Silent Auction, held on March 25 at the STARTA breakfast meeting was a great success. One could see and hear the camaraderie and friendly exchanges that took place at the dining tables and at the auction tables to realize that auctions foster great social mornings. Members can part with items for which they no longer have use and take home bargains without breaking the bank.

Many thanks go to members who donated items and to the crew who made the auction happen. Many worked behind the scenes and many on the day, and all worked efficiently and enthusiastically. On average we sell about 80 percent of the items so that only 20 percent are taken to LO-SE-CA. This year we realized \$555.80 (somewhat less than in previous years but still a significant amount). Proceeds from the auction are directed to the operation of the association.

Popular items this year included jigsaw puzzles, house and garden items that are functional and practical, DVDs and CDs, homemade jams and pickles and travel aids. Not so popular items included vases, candles and ceramic figures.

It is not too early to put aside any unneeded items for next year's auction. Enjoy your treasures.

Thanks to the crew

Alison Weingardt	Jean Elder
Brenda Kane	Ada Burzminski
Glen Kane	Pat Trudeau
Lou Duigou	Joan Mestinsek
Lynne Duigou	Maurine Maslen
Terry Binette	Sybil Simmons
Susan Tronsgard	Sherry Capowski
Marion Oberg	Clarence Capowski
Dawn Curran	David Flower
Carol Kaup	Lucy Krisco
Lorene Silverton	Rachelle Caouette
Lee de Champlain	Hu Puffer
Susan Supruniuk	Wayne Flaska
Jessie Parker	Emil Guzik
Joan Trettler	Larry Wyatt

Ron Trettler

Donna Wyatt

Gail Kozinski

Special thanks to pack leader Eryl Jones

Fascinating historical connection

Rita Guzik (wife of our program convenor) is a descendent of one of the early families who settled in St. Albert—the **Leonards**. Rita is the great granddaughter of Joseph Ettiene Leonard. In 1894 he took over the post office from the Mission and with the help of his daughters managed it for 12 years. **Joseph was on the first Town Council of St. Albert.** On being requested to do so, in 1897 he took over the telephone exchange and housed it in his home on Sturgeon Road. Again with the assistance of his daughters who were the operators, he managed the telephone exchange for 11 years. In recognition of his contribution to the early years of St. Albert a street was named after him. Interestingly Rita's father used to swim in the Sturgeon River when he was a young boy. Can anyone see themselves swimming in the polluted river today?



Scholarships

If you have a granddaughter or grandson who is currently attending a post-secondary institution or planning to and you are a member of ARTA, you might like to apply for one of the ARTA/Johnson scholarships. Details are in the last ARTA *News and Views* on pages six and fifteen. The application deadline for these scholarships is July 31, 2011. Forms are available on request in writing from the ARTA office or on the web at www.albertarta.org.



ROD THRONSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Tuesday June 14, 2011
Twin Willows Golf Club**

Our annual STARTA Golf Tournament is being named in memory of Past President, Rod Thronson (1935-2010) who served for six years on the executive.

Join us for 9 or 18 holes of Texas Scramble followed by a BBQ lunch.

Clip the registration form below and submit with cheque (payable to Helen Kieran 83 Morgan Cr. St. Albert, T8N 2E3)

Deadline for registration June 7, 2011

Your golf committee:

Brenda Kane 460-2414 Dawn Curran 458-6245 Helen Kieran 458-2420

You will be notified of your tee time. Cart rental extra. Lunch menu: 6oz steak sandwich, baked potato, garlic toast Caesar salad, dessert, coffee, tea.

Name _____ Phone _____

Register as a group or as an individual. A STARTA member may invite up to three guests.

1. _____ phone _____

2. _____ phone _____

3. _____ phone _____

9 holes golf (includes lunch) _____ @ 46.80 = \$ _____

18 holes golf (includes lunch) _____ @ 60.00 = \$ _____

Lunch only (guest name) _____ @22.00 = \$ _____

Total payment \$ _____

*In the event of a rain out, the lunch will still be served. Golf fees will be refunded.