

Home Quarter

STOCKMEN'S MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2024



Corral Notes

Be the change you wish to see in the world. - Mahatma Gandhi

This is much easier said than done, especially in the current times where many politicians peddle their snake oil labeled as change. Change can be categorized with death and taxes, as one of the few certainties in life. The paradox is that those of us that resist “change” usually end up experiencing it in a less than desirable form. Just think of how we have resisted change to our forests for decades and how that is now playing out.

Andrew Amelinckx’s book *Satellite Boy* chronicles the satellite space-race of the 1960’s and the first geosynchronous satellite that allowed for worldwide live television. The first event that highlighted this satellite capability was the TV show *Our World*. *The 1967 two-hour production* was the first live multinational multi-satellite television production with broadcasters from fourteen countries around the world. The clip used to highlight western Canada was from the Two Rivers Ranch in Ghost Lake, Alberta. The ranch was home to the famous cutting horse King Leo Bar. By the 1990’s the Stoney Nation had purchased the land that they then used to house the Stoney Medicine Lodge, and a cattle ranching co-op ran by the late Kent Fox. Since the mid 90’s the property has been left to suffer the slow change of neglect and July 25th the old lodge suffered the final blow as it burned to the ground. It is said that King Leo Bar is buried on the property at the top of the hill, and his descendants still grace the cutting horse world.

On a brighter note the first recipient of The Friends of the Stockmen’s award in 2020, Jourdyn Sammons, is ushering in change in the cattle industry. A recent article by Lisa Guenther in the Western Producer highlights a University of Saskatchewan study that Sammons co-authored. It compares production, animal performance and sustainability of forage and annual blends under a planned grazing system. Jourdyn presented the U of S findings at Ag in Motion in July. I am sure this is change that her ancestors from Iowa and Ukraine could not have imagined when they arrived in Alberta over a hundred years ago. We look forward to seeing what other changes this 5th generation Albertan will bring to the family farm near Gleichen.

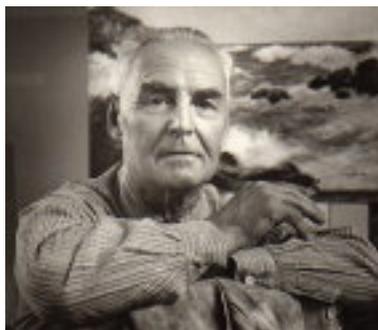
The Stockmen’s, like everyone else is not immune to change and as such we have experienced some of our own recently. After more than four years Jolene Airth, our Library Coordinator, has moved on to her next challenge and adventure. Jolene is now the Executive Director of the Alberta Lamb Producers. We thank Jolene for all she has done for the Stockmen’s and wish her the best of luck in her new endeavour. We are happy to welcome Brittney Whalen to the Stockmen’s. She brings with her a passion for history as she steps into the role of Library Coordinator. Please stop in to meet Brittney.

As the season starts to change in the next few weeks with cooler mornings and the colours Roland Gissing was famous for having on his pallet come to life, don’t forget our annual fall dinner is just around the corner. Tickets are on sale as of August 13th and are \$100 per ticket for the October 26th dinner. If you would like tickets or have a donation for the dinner, please let us know.

Saddle up,



On the cover:



The painting is called “Bow River Near Exshaw” by Roland Gissing

It was completed in 1948

Farewell and Good Luck to Jolene!

This spring we said goodbye to Jolene. Although it was hard to say goodbye we are excited for Jolene in this new chapter of her life as the Executive Director of the Alberta Lamb Producers. She will continue to spread her love of agriculture to more parts of Alberta and we could not be more proud of her.

Farewell Jolene and good luck we can't wait to see you enjoy the fall dinner as a member.



Introducing the Stockmen's New Library Coordinator

Hello! I'm Brittney and I just started as the Library Coordinator. I'm thrilled to join the team and can't wait to meet all the dedicated staff and volunteers and members at the Stockmen's. I was born and raised in Ontario but don't hold it against me, my family is from Newfoundland and I've been in Alberta since 2019. My life passion has always been history and I pursued a degree at Queen's University. I am fascinated with local and international history and am always ready with a historical fun fact. When I'm not reading history books or hanging out with my fiancé and cats, you can find me gardening, embroidering or watching a good movie. Spending time in nature and camping has always been my favorite activity, although the mountainous hikes in Alberta are much more difficult than anything I was used to in Ontario. Going forward I'm hoping to soak up all the incredible stories and histories from our members and volunteers to champion local ranching history throughout Alberta.





Happenings at the Stockmen's

School Groups and the Classroom Agriculture Program

May and June was field trip season for the local schools. The Stockmen's was visited by Fireside and Rancheview Gr. 1 and 2's. Students listened to a history presentation on the area and received a tour of the museum. Students enjoyed exploring the museum and were very intrigued by all of the artifacts.

The Stockmen's continues to participate in the Classroom Agriculture Program and visited Elizabeth Barrett to teach Grade 4 students about the many aspects of agriculture. The student's favourite topic was chickens with many different questions about chicks, chickens, and their eggs.



Branding Events

Now with warmer weather our Branding Experiences are up and running! People have the chance to learn the history of how brands work and have the opportunity to take a branded wooden board home as a souvenir. So far we have gone to Aggie Days and Dartique Days along with five days at the Calgary Stampede. The Stampede, although very hot this year, was a great way to advertise the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation and through the five days 191 brands were created.



2024 Casino

The Stockmen's Casino happened June 25th and 26. The casino is an important way that the Stockmen's raises money. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered to make the casino fundraiser possible!



Roland Gissing Event

The Stockmen's Memorial Foundation once again joined together with FCSS to put on a Seniors' Week event. This year the event featured a local artist; Roland Gissing. Roland was a cowboy turned artist and often spent hours painting, so much so that his doctor had to tell him to reduce his hours working on his projects. His paintings are popular in Alberta and across the world and are known for evoking a sense of nostalgia or homesickness for Alberta.

We were fortunate to have Kori Gregory, the granddaughter of Roland Gissing, speak at the event. Her presentation was wonderfully done and met with very positive reception.

Along with a presentation guests enjoyed coffee, tea, and cookies along with a room filled with Gissing art to look at and explore.

New Additions to the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation!

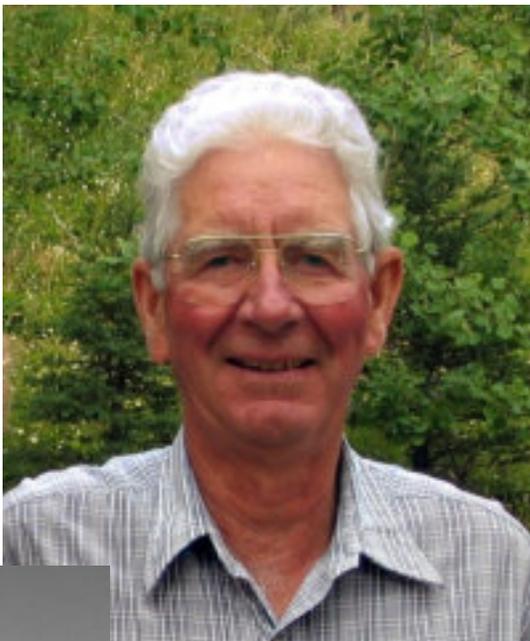
Along with the Roland Gissing presentation guests were also introduced to some new and exciting items that the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation will be adding to its art collection.

At the conclusion of the Roland Gissing event a Jack King painting and a C. R. bronze was revealed. Peter and Bev Brill have agreed to donate their extensive collection of Jack King paintings and Cheek Sr bronzes. King and Cheek Sr. were both artists from California and Montana, respectively, and their artwork was frequently a part of the Calgary Stampede art auction. Keep an eye out for announcements about our new art collection!



Rest in Peace Tom Gilchrist

Tom Gilchrist sadly passed away on April 6th of this year. He was an instrumental part of the formation of the Stockmen's Memorial Foundation and a founding member. Our hearts go out to his family and all those impacted by his passing. Tom was part of numerous industry and community organizations throughout his life, making him loved by many. Some of these organizations including serving as president of the Western Stock Growers Association where he worked with beef producers, industry, and government leaders, receiving many awards and accolades for his efforts. He was one of the first to introduce the science of cattle crossbreeding into his own herd. He travelled internationally to tour and learn from other beef operations. All of his work in the livestock industry and the Stockmen's will never be forgotten as his efforts will remain important aspects of how things are done today. He will be missed, however, we know that his memories, accomplishments, and kindness will never be forgotten.



Looking Back

We came up here to pioneer in 1936

We were young and optimistic, I'll admit.

We had some cows and five work horses and saddle ponies too

Times were rough and lean but neither one said "Quit"

We loved this land of mountains, grass and water

The crocuses and shooting stars in spring

We knew this was our place and we would stay here

With the good and not so good, that seasons bring.

I scrubbed the laundry on a knuckle skinner washboard

And carried pails of water up the hill,

Our dugout well was way down in a hollow

So we just reversed the rhyme of Jack and Jill.

We travelled to our town on saddle horses

And hauled our groceries home in gunny sacks

We carted flour, sugar, tea and all we needed

And ourselves upon their ever willing backs.

Sometimes the sugar would be full of horse hair

From being tied behind the saddle roll

But we didn't toss it in the garbage -

We just blew the hair from out the sugar bowl.

But the real pioneers had many graver problems

Then the little ones that I have listed here

They were so far from home and friends and family

Their bold, brave spirits must have cost them dear.

But they stuck it out and settled this country

And built a whole new world for you and me

If it wasn't for the folk who went before us

I wonder where us fellows would be

- Mary Armstrong



Bert Sheppard
Library & Archives

101 RancheHouse Road, Cochrane AB. T4C 2K8

Phone: 403-932-3782 or 403-804-6044

Email: admin@stockmen.ca Website: www.stockmen.ca

Hours:

Open: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am-3:00pm and
10:00-4:00pm summer weekends. Closed: Monday & Statutory Holidays



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Erik Butters

Past Pres: Reiny Kristel

Treasurer: Don Hepburn

Secretary: Jane Mason

Directors: Jim Burns

Cam Camden

Greg Hawkwood

Trina Lowe

Jessie Pepin

Duncan Stewart

Edith Wearmouth

Would you like to have your submission featured in the next issue
of the HomeQuarter?

Brighten everyone's day with your story, photo, joke, recipe or
other!



Stockmen's Fall Dinner is Saturday

October 26th @ 5:00 pm

Cochrane RancheHouse

\$100 per ticket

Join us for our auction and prime
rib dinner with the beef provided by
Cargill Foods Ltd.

Get your tickets quickly as the
event is a sellout every year.

If you would like to donate to our
major fundraising event call, email
or visit our website.

PH 403-932-3782

admin@stockmen.ca

www.stockmen.ca

STAFF:

Executive Director:
Scott Grattidge

Library Coordinator:
Brittney Whalen

Bookkeeper:
Kelly Klyne

Summer students:
Jocelyn Eckert
Trinity Yaremichuk

