

Fall 2022

Summer Reflections

By Donna Nelson

Local community folks and tourists have enjoyed the presence of Historic Markerville Creamery Museum and Kaffistofa during the summer months. The two months of delightful, casual Thursday night “Supper and Songs” have been extra popular. The free concerts featured musicians from Rocky Mountain House, Caroline, Penhold, Red Deer and Markerville. Some folks came in time for a light supper from the Kaffistofa, while others came for one of the many flavours of ice cream as they gathered in the Creamery Courtyard visiting and enjoying the musical talent and warm evenings.

Our biggest event was Cream Day along with Show & Shine, an unusual combo, but in Markerville, it’s a great traditional summer attraction. This year, some ninety or so shiny old vehicles filled the streets while crafty vendors and historic demonstration displays like cream separating and ice cream making, attracted folks into the Creamery Courtyard. The aroma of barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs drew people to the BBQ gazebo and the pie and ice cream station was forever lined up.

Roberta Fetch, one of the Supper & Songs musicians, was back for the afternoon musical entertainment. A special presentation was made to Jordan Connors and Abigail Huising (see the photo on page 4), who received the SGSIS Cook Family Scholarship in preparation for their post secondary education. Wrapping up the day was a hilarious old fashioned pie eating contest including all ages—a definite crowd pleaser!

It’s guessed that close to one thousand folks came by, some from as far away as Calgary and Edmonton; some said “they wouldn’t miss it.” As our summer season closes on September 5, we give a **“shout out” thanks and appreciation to the staff and all the volunteers.**

Breaking News!

Friday at Fensala Hall is back on **October 21**, featuring a **Harvest Supper** followed by **Larry Kjearsgaard** with a “back by popular demand” presentation of his Markerville stories and songs.

For further information check historicmarkerville.com or the Historic Markerville facebook page, or contact John at 403-728-3795

See you there!

Historicmarkerville.com



Manager's Message

What a great season!

We were able to offer school programming after two years. It was great to see the students return. Our programming was limited to Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as Stephansson House limited their opening to five days a week.

The Creamery staff were amazing . . . as always. We were fortunate to hire six young ladies whose wages were covered by grants. **Makena Osborne** (our only university student) is studying Psychology at the Kelowna campus of UBC. Makena has strong ties to the community, as the great, great granddaughter of Dan Morkeberg, great granddaughter of Carl and Marion and granddaughter of Val Osborne. **Naomi Kure** will be finishing her last year of high school. We hired Naomi to assist with school programs as she had other commitments during the summer. **Nevaeh Baumann** is attending Spruce View School. Nevaeh helped with school programs and weekend work until July when she switched to full-time. Nevaeh and family live in the old Markerville schoolhouse. **Rachel Reynolds** is attending Spruce View School and returned to us after working the summer of 2021. Our only returning staff member, Rachel helped to train the staff for which I'm very thankful. **Emma Brooks** is completing Grade 12 at Spruce View School. Emma moved into the area a year ago and is part of a very local family, the Lougheeds. **Maya Harris** also attends Spruce View School. Formerly from Langley B.C., she has experienced a lot of changes adjusting to rural living. You may have met her at the monthly community dinners. I hope you had a chance to meet these wonderful ladies this summer.

We were unable to bring the Dan Morkeberg Exhibit to the museum this summer. Makena Osborne has agreed to work with me so we can present it next year. I'm sure she'll add a family touch.

Financially, our season was great. We finished the season approximately 28% above 2021 sales. Thank you to everyone who supported us in one way or another. I appreciate the commitment and support of our community, volunteers & Red Deer County. We could not do it without you.

Brooke Henrikson

SGSIS is hiring an
Operations Co-Manager
to start as soon as possible.

View the posting at
historicmarkerville.com or
contact sgsispersonnel@gmail.com



President's Message

Here we are at the end of another summer season. From our Manager's last report to the board, it appears the Kaffistofa is on track to match or exceed last year's income. Working with an all new staff, Brooke has coached them into a great, cohesive team that puts out food, gives tours of the museum in a pleasant and personal manner—and humours me. They have learned a lot, including planning and coordinating a successful Cream Day with the help of our many willing volunteers.

This summer, the Creamery continued with a Thursday evening music program started last year and renamed "Song and Supper". Between 50-100 people showed up each Thursday throughout the summer. The closing evening showcased Larry Kjeersgaard telling his story about Markerville in song. It was well received by the public. We are not finished with music just because the Creamery is closing -remember to get your tickets for the Fensala Hall Concert Series!

Fensala Hall has become more active with COVID restrictions being removed. There have been some weddings, family reunions and memorial coffees. Month end potluck dinners have resumed with the Community Association hosting. It's great to hear kids playing in the playground while the adults enjoy socialization in the hall. The old church hosted a few weddings, one elopement and Ken Sveinson's funeral service. That being said, we have had a significant number of seniors from our community pass away this year. On behalf of the Society I offer our heartfelt condolences to those who have lost someone this past year.

Our Society is very significant in the province because of our management of five historical sites. Members past and present should be proud of what we do to preserve Alberta's history. A donation in remembrance of someone is significant to the well being of our Society.

The board identified that all the directional signs to the Creamery Museum were old and tired and needed to be replaced. Donna Nelson worked with the County to identify where signs needed to be and the County replaced them at their expense. *Thank you Red Deer County.*

This summer the Hola School Society offered Hola School (just west of the Stephansson House) to the Society. In assuming the responsibility, the board took into consideration the position of past boards on this matter, that . . .

"Not on our watch will this history be lost."

We expect to take possession next month. Plans include the continuation of school programs and possibly doing some programming with the Stephansson House.

Restoration of the Buttermaker's House continues and we expect to have it complete some time in October. The Society expects to rent the house out through an Artist in Residence Program. Artists will be able to pursue their passion while residing in the solitude of Markerville and our community will benefit from interacting with them.

So in conclusion, these are exciting times to be part of our Society. *A big thanks to all* for the support, cheerleading, donating and volunteering. We are vibrant because of you! Looking forward to seeing you at a community supper, concert or Christmas in Markerville,

Al Gamble



President Al was last spotted locked in the Buttermaker's House with John McKechnie, apparently in good spirits. What's in that mug?

Cook Scholarship Awarded

The Cook Family Scholarship Committee has selected two childhood friends from two different provinces as recipients of the 2022 Scholarship.

Abby Huising, daughter of Markerville's Jim and Beth Huising, caught the eye of the selection committee with her essay titled *Alberta's Hidden Gem*. Abby wrote of the history of Markerville and the impact that the SGSIS has had on the community. An enthusiastic athlete, Abby enjoys working out, running and playing volleyball. When not helping on the family farm and gardens, she works at the Innisfail Boston Pizza. The autumn of 2022 will find Abby at the University of Calgary where she will be studying toward a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Her ambitions are to use this as a stepping stone to a law degree, with interests in criminal law or business law.

Jordan Connors, granddaughter of Markerville's Ken and Marie Sveinson and daughter of Deb and Mike Connors, hails from Nanaimo, British Columbia. Jordan is well known in the Markerville area, and impressed the selection committee with her essay about the impact of Markerville's Icelandic heritage. Jordan claims that the community has impacted her by demonstrating the importance of community and neighbours. Jordan has been accepted in the Bachelor of Kinesiology program at Vancouver Island University and will use this as a route to her goal of becoming an Athletic Therapist. Jordan hopes to also continue with her strong interest in volleyball.



Jordan (L) and Abby (R) at the scholarship presentation at Cream Day

The Cook Family Scholarship, established by Barry and Vivian Cook of Vancouver, has been a long-time support in encouraging awareness of Icelandic culture in the Markerville area. Graduating high school students are encouraged to complete essays about the impact of the Stephan G Stephansson Icelandic Society or Icelandic culture on the community of Markerville and surrounding area. The family of the applicant must belong to the SGSIS and the graduating student must be enrolled in a post secondary institution.

Made in Markerville

Canada's World Junior Hockey Team won the gold medal in Edmonton last month. The winning goal was scored by **Kent Johnson**. His great grandparents (Willy Johnson and Annie Cook) owned and operated a store in Markerville for many years before moving to Calgary and then to Vancouver. His grandfather (Stan Johnson) grew up in Markerville and played hockey here with the likes of Ken Sveinson, Bernie Hansen and many others.



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Fensala Hall CONCERT SERIES

24 MAIN AVENUE
MARKERVILLE, AB

Season Tickets **\$125**

Cash or cheque only, payable to SGSIS
For more info: PH 403-728-3795

2022/2023

RAULT BROTHERS BAND

NOV 12

6 MINUTE WARNING

MAR 25

MARCUS TRUMMER BAND

SEPT 17

MEGAN NASH

JAN 21

SOL JAMES

MAY 27

Sponsored
in part by

Red Deer County
Recreation and Culture Board
Division 5

&



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts

2022/2023
Season

www.historicmarkerville.com

The Buttermaker's House Restoration

It is hard to believe we are nearing completion of the Buttermaker's House Restoration. There are still lots of little things to do but we are getting closer and closer! We are grateful for the support we have received from the County of Red Deer, Alberta Historic Resource Foundation, Wine Survivor participants, Alberta Holstein Association and individual donors.

Our Spring Wine Survivor raised \$5,347.60. The winning teams were: Sopranos - 1st, Wine Today Gone Tomorrow - 2nd, Had Me at Merlot - 3rd, The X-Pensive Winos - 4th, and 1st eliminated were The Pinot Gringos. Thank you to all who participated in the fun! There will be a Christmas Wine Survivor coming in November once again so get your teams ready!

We are also grateful to the Artists on the Avenue that raised \$1,000 during their event in July by painting and donating artwork that was sold through a silent auction. The support we have received from individuals, organizations, and businesses has been amazing and we are extremely grateful.



Shane Piper
finishes the floors

So where are we at? The inside of the house has been moving along nicely with the painting done, floors sanded and painted, our refurbished kitchen cupboards ready to be put back in place once the countertop is ready, the bathroom tiling done and ready for the fixtures. Once the baseboards, window trim and wainscoting is in place we will begin with the interior decorating. The goal is to have the restoration completed by October.

The committee has been given Board approval to use the House as an Artist in Residence Historic Home. Once furnished, we will be able to rent the home to artists, professionals and others to work on their craft and share with the community. We are very excited about this purpose and have received great interest already from artists wishing to come stay. The house will be open to



the public when it is not being occupied. As well, we are working on family histories of past residents of the house, collecting pictures and stories of interest. We have received some antique items as donations from families connected to the house which we will be using where possible. Thank you to the Dennis Kennedy, Brian Jackson, Donna Crozier, Gerry Hildebrand, and Val Osborne families for your contributions. We have a wood stove that we will be converting to a cooktop stove, a parlour stove, china hutch, cedar chest, antique headboard for a double bed, old wash jug and a decorative plate of Dan Morkeberg's.



The committee is working on a budget and a wish list (see page 8) for items we need to furnish the house and would appeal to anyone that may help us out by donating or purchasing the items we need. The furnishing of the house is not covered by any matching grants so we will be sourcing other ways to cover these costs.

Icelandic Picnic

SGSIS celebrated Iceland's National Day along with Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary and Nordurljos Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton on June 18. The sunshine, after a week of rain, made it a very successful day. With sixty or so Icelandic flags decorating the foot bridge and Creamery Courtyard, people commented it was a welcome sight. As some of our senior membership will recall, we've pared down some of the events over the years, but the cultural tradition to celebrate the Saturday closest to June 17 has been in the works since 1977 when SGSIS joined the already established Calgary and Edmonton clubs to alternately choose the Fjallkona each third year.

This year, Joy Milne, d'Arcy Gamble and Kaley Henderson took care of the kids activities, followed by the Sons of Fenrir Vikings who comically joined in with the kids races. They brought along craft displays of how they make their Viking attire as well as displays of household living in ancient times. Although they had a short re-enactment demo in the confined area of the Courtyard, it seemed to be convenient for those wishing to watch, and those wanting instead to visit, or tour the Buttermaker House, Creamery or hamlet, or ride the Cream Can express. The free ice cream cones were a hit as usual.



The program highlights were d'Arcy crowning the **new Fjallkona, Donna Crozier, from Edmonton Club**, and greetings from each of the clubs, ending with two beautiful solos sung by Viking Dianna Slater.

The bar and the potluck supper tastefully finished the day. It was heartwarming to see folks, old and young, gathering together, some reacquainting, reconnecting, reminiscing, sharing stories, drinking coffee, taking pictures, etc. So *cheers* to all who attended, and to all who gave a helping hand to the day.



Buttermaker's House *Wish List*

Kitchen

- dishes, pots and pans, cutlery
- mixing bowls
- glasses, coffee mugs, wine glasses
- cooking utensils - spoons, flippers, whisks
- measuring cups, spoons
- dish cloths, tea towels
- fridge - new or used
- stove top to fit the wood stove
- toaster oven, coffee pot
- kitchen table and chairs

Living Room

- couch and chairs
- area rug
- coffee and side tables
- lamps
- office chair – old wood

Bedroom

- double bed mattress and box spring
- linens - 2 sets
- bedspread
- pillows - 4
- bedside table
- dresser and mirror
- clothes hangers
- curtain for bedroom door opening

Bathroom

- 2 or 3 sets of towels, bath mat
- shower curtain
- mirror

Other

- ceiling lights for 4 rooms
- curtains

Items may be new or gently used. For further details please contact d'Arcy at 403-728-3340 or darcy.j.gamble@gmail.com.

Tindastoll Cemetery

Have you driven by or stopped in at Tindastoll Cemetery this summer? We commend the cemetery committee and volunteers for not only maintaining this special piece of property, but also for organizing and hiring out the big jobs of hauling away old cement pieces, cutting down dead trees, installing fence and planting trees.

There is a concern though about the amount of items of decoration, bottles, etc. that get left or displayed at headstones and then blown around, uprooted by animals, caught in the mower and turned into disgusting trash, all of which has to be picked up regularly to keep the grounds clean and tidy.

Let us be environmentally aware and if placing a small decoration at the headstone, please secure it carefully, or place fresh flowers which can naturally wither and blow with the winds.

Thanks for helping to keep our cemetery a tidy and peaceful place.

Much progress has been made on the west side where some of the very old tombstones were almost lost in the bush. Trees have been cut and space cleared for mowing.

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Cream Day and Show 'n Shine 2022



Clockwise from top left:

- Marie Sveinson painting faces
- David Solomons, David Lovlie and Tim Kreil man the BBQ station
- Frank Sigurdson and Stan Neilsen separating cream
- Pie eating
- The "Larry bench" - Heth and Kjearsgaard
- Show 'n Shine entries in front of the Buttermaker's House

Calendar of Events

September 17- Marcus Trummer Band
at Fensala Hall

September 25- Community Potluck at Fensala
Turkey with all the fixin's

October 21—Friday at Fensala Harvest Dinner

October 30—Community Potluck—Oktoberfest!

November 4-6—Christmas in Markerville

November 12—Rault Brothers Band at Fensala Hall

November 27—Community Potluck—Ribs

December—to be finalized

- Volunteer Social
- Christmas Eve Service

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Friends to Remember

We remember the many friends we lost this spring and summer, and offer our deepest condolences to their families.

Eileen Hanna, 87—March 2

Ron Olesen, 86—March 22

Lavilla Johannson, 74—April 5

Bill Bourne, 68—April 16

Rose (Stephansson) Abdul-Rahman,
62—April 25

George Johannson, 79—May 15

Ken Sveinson, 91—May 21

Don Johnson, 89—June 20

Mitchell Cruickshank, 72—July 12

Dean Doll, 78—July 19

David Bjarnason, 86—July 24

Newsletter Acknowledgements

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SGSIS owns and operates Historic Markerville

- Historic Markerville Creamery Museum
- Fensala Hall
- Tindastoll Cemetery
- Markerville Church
- the Buttermaker's House and
- Iðunn Icelandic Library in support of our mission:

***Honouring the legacy of Markerville's
Icelandic pioneers in building a vibrant
rural community and enriching the
cultural tapestry of Alberta and Canada.***



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