

*Celebrating 100 Years*  
**2006 Annual Report**

**December 31, 2006**



*City of Lethbridge*  
**Alberta, Canada**

## VISION

TO BE A HEALTHY, ATTRACTIVE AND  
ECONOMICALLY VIABLE CITY



## MISSION

TO SERVE OUR RESIDENTS AND  
GUESTS, TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP  
AND TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY IN  
ACHIEVING THE VISION

**The City of Lethbridge Acknowledges:**

**John Dubbelboer**  
for cover picture

**Liisa Vann**  
for Centennial Contributions

**City Staff**  
for their contributions  
to this report

This Annual Report has been prepared and  
compiled by the City of Lethbridge Financial  
Services Department.

<http://www.lethbridge.ca>

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December 31, 2006

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Wasn't that a party! In 2006, the entire community celebrated the centennial of Lethbridge's incorporation as a city. There were well-attended official events throughout the year, but what really pleased me was that many, many families and organizations adopted the theme for their own gatherings. Thanks to this huge citizen involvement, the Centennial Flag flew over this city all year long. When every citizen has a chance to join in the celebrations, that's a party!

My favourite part of the year was the announcement on May 9, 2006 that Lethbridge had attained the remarkable status of being free of all tax-supported, external debt. What an amazing accomplishment for the people of Lethbridge! Thanks to former Mayor David Carpenter's vision in 1988, the fortitude of successive City Councils, and the City's team of financial administrators, the city ended its reliance on external borrowings for tax-supported projects and brought us to the point where Lethbridge could celebrate such an incredible municipal accomplishment during the Centennial Year.



The re-opening of the Galt Museum and Archives was another of the pivotal events in the Centennial celebrations. Much of the enthusiasm involved the dramatic new public spaces and display areas. Discovery Hall is a 5000 square foot space which houses a permanent exhibit entitled "Exploring Southwest Alberta". Always a fascinating place, the new Galt is perfectly positioned to interpret the Lethbridge story for residents and guests alike.

Lethbridge continues to grow and plan for success in the next century. This city is recognized as being a very cost-effective location for business, and our quality of life continues to draw people to this community. Lethbridge's construction industry broke the \$200 million development permit mark in 2006, far surpassing the 2005 figures which were the previous development high-water mark.

Yet Lethbridge knows that we still need to look ahead and, in 2006, City Council committed to begin the process of Municipal Sustainability Planning. The need to balance social, cultural, economic, environment and governance issues in decision-making is critical if municipalities want to build communities where people want to live – in creating sustainable communities. Sustainability planning is an opportunity for municipalities to take a long-term look at the communities they want and take proactive steps to move there. Sustainability planning provides the tool to gather the wisdom and expertise of community members and discover innovative solutions for today's challenges while leaving a positive legacy for future generations.

In the realm of protecting our environment, Lethbridge has made several major advances. These include the development of SunRidge, the first BuiltGreen subdivision in Canada, which encourages environmentally-sustainable design and construction. I'm very excited that the city is a key partner in the Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership of thirty-six municipalities which is nurturing alternative energy business opportunities in three areas: solar, wind and biomass.

City Council is committed to providing Lethbridge with a healthy, vibrant, safe and beautiful Downtown that serves as its civic, cultural and economic centre. Council's commitment is rooted in an understanding that a healthy downtown is critical to the City's economic development, global competitiveness, quality of life and sense of identity and pride. This commitment is demonstrated in Council's Working Together for Tomorrow strategic planning document. Downtown Revitalization is one of Council's top three priorities. The project that embodies this revitalization effort is the Heart of Our City Master Plan. The second phase of the plan was completed in 2006, which puts us about half-way through this very important project.

On another front in the effort to build a sustainable community, City Council approved a recommendation from the Social Housing in Action Committee for an innovative approach to achieving City Council's vision for increasing affordable housing in the city. This approach is to use a revolving fund to bridge finance construction of new homes to assist people who have a secure income, but need some support and education to make home ownership a reality. As an applicant repays their loan to the fund, the money becomes available to support another.

The founding of Lethbridge was based, not just on coal and grain, but also on the vision of people who saw possibilities rather than obstacles. Vision and faith will continue to shape Lethbridge over the next hundred years.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert D. Tarleck". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert D. (Bob) Tarleck, M.A., M.Ed., Ako'Tasi  
Mayor

Congratulations to the members of the City of Lethbridge Financial Services team who produce this document. For the tenth successive year, they received recognition from their peers at the Government Finance Officers Association for the quality of our Annual Reports.

# City Council 2004-2007



## City Council

Back Row: Alderman Liz Iwaskiw, Alderman Leslie Vaala, Alderman Ryan Parker, Alderman Joanne Weadick

Front: Alderman Tom Wickersham, Alderman Shaun Ward, Mayor Bob Tarleck, Alderman Barbara Lacey, Alderman Rajko Dodic

## Progress Report on Working Together For Tomorrow – Councils' Strategic Plan 2004 - 2007

### **Southern Cities Initiative**

This project consists of ongoing liaison between the Medicine Hat City Council and the Lethbridge City Council. This initiative is to ensure the needs of both cities are effectively presented to the Government of Alberta.

### **Downtown Social Issues**

A report entitled "Building a Better Neighbourhood" was released in 2006. A committee has been formed to describe in detail the actions and recommendations from the report. The final report will be approved by Council in March 2007.

### **Transit Services**

After an extensive community consultation process, the desired service levels for transit throughout the community were defined and adopted by Council as "transit service standards." The key system improvement implemented in 2006 was the completion of the northside terminal and subsequent restructuring of all northside routes to align with the remainder of the City system. Additionally, service was expanded in west Lethbridge to accommodate growth in the Heritage Heights/West Highlands area. The transit standards and guidelines will be used to direct further system improvements in 2007. With input of federal funding, transit was able to purchase a total of 16 new accessible buses reducing the average age of the fleet by eleven years.

### **Downtown Redevelopment Plan**

The Downtown Heart of Our City Master Plan will be completed in the summer of 2007. The Plan will chart a course for the transformation of the downtown that will guide public improvements and private investment.

### **Social Policy**

City Council approved the Social Policy in July 2005. It identifies the community needs and social service priorities and a policy framework has been created to address those needs.

### **Budget Process**

In 2005, City Council adopted the 2006-2008 Operating Budget.

### **Arts Policy**

City Council adopted the Arts Policy in 2006. The Arts Policy identifies the Allied Arts Council role in coordination and leadership of the arts in the community, and provides implementation funding. In the 2006 – 2008 operating budget, City Council approved funding for a new initiative in support of the AAC role in coordination and promotion of the arts.

### **Affordable Housing**

In 2006, four affordable housing projects were approved, which will provide 174 housing units. In addition, the number of families receiving rental subsidies will increase to 70 by 2008.

### **Growth Management**

City Council has directed that the principles of the Growth Management Strategy and the Municipal Sustainability Plan will be included in the Municipal Development plan.

### **Sports and Recreation Policy**

Community consultation will take place in April 2007 and the policy will be prepared for Council consideration in July 2007.

### **Water Quality and Quantity**

The City has an ongoing partnership with the Oldman Watershed Council and Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership.

### **West Side Phase II**

In 2005, Council approved an Area Structure Plan allowing for the development of West Lethbridge.

### **Infrastructure Deficit**

City Administration is developing an inventory on the state and condition of the city's infrastructure and as part of the Community Asset Management Plan, has created a priority matrix. This work is in progress.

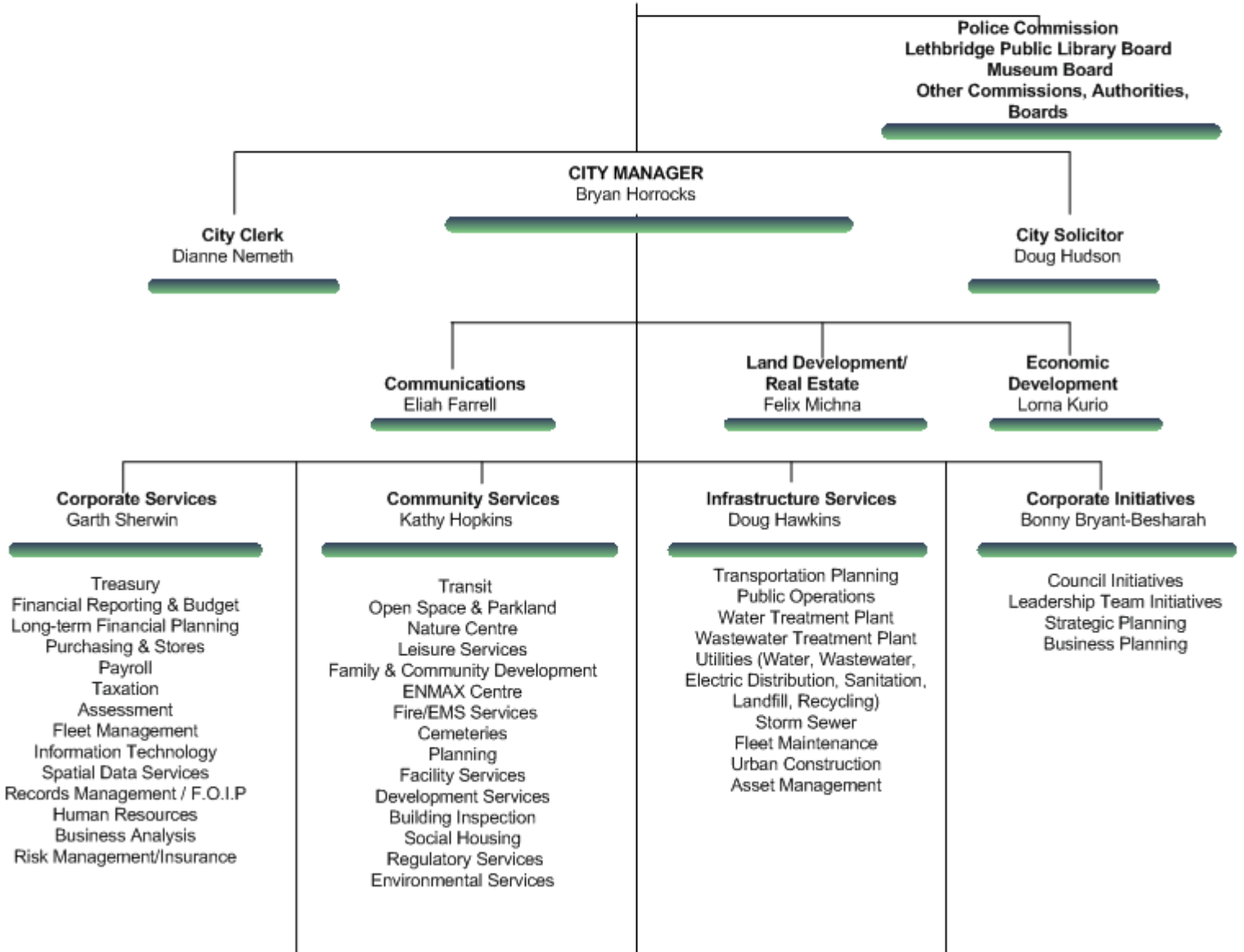
# City Organization

## Legislative and Administrative ORGANIZATION CHART



### CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Bob Tarleck  
 Alderman Barbara Lacey      Alderman Ryan Parker  
 Alderman Leslie Vaala      Alderman Shaun Ward  
 Alderman Joanne Weadick      Alderman Liz Iwaskiw  
 Alderman Rajko Dodic      Alderman Tom Wickersham



## 1. THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE AS A "SYSTEM"

A system is defined as a set of related entities that receives INPUTS, adds value to them through CORE PROCESSES to achieve a defined purpose (desired OUT-COMES) for its customers.

## 2. CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES

The purpose of the corporation is to serve and assist the citizens of Lethbridge in achieving the vision. Every action must centre on meeting customer needs.

## 3. RESULTS ORIENTATION

Improved performance is a continuous process based on meaningful, results oriented performance measures.

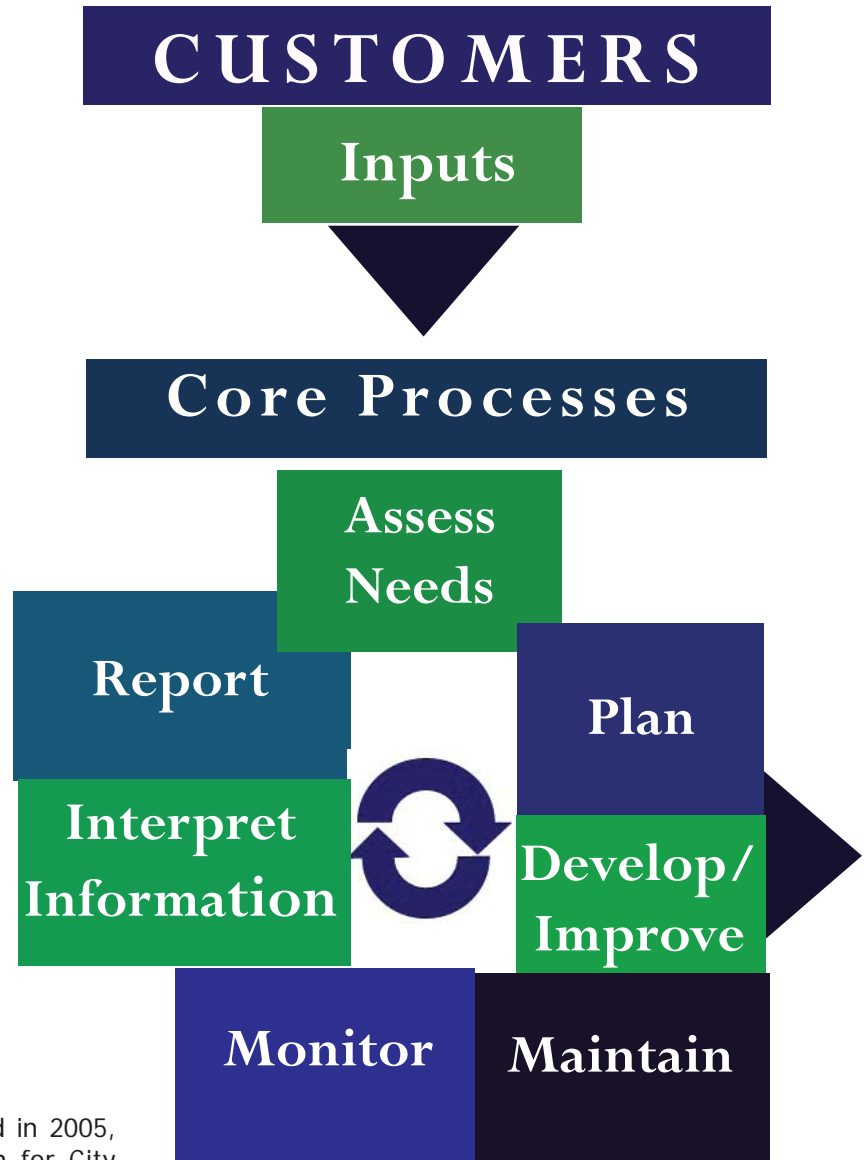
On May 16, 2005 Council approved the following documents: "Working Together for Tomorrow – An Integrated Strategic Plan for the City of Lethbridge", and "Community Visioning Session", as Council's commitment to working toward a future community that truly expresses the vision and values of the citizens. These documents strengthen the ability to govern, provide leadership that inspires City staff in delivering services to the community, and to provide citizens with opportunities to contribute and participate. In addition, "Working Together for Tomorrow" outlines Council's priorities to be achieved over the next three years.

A Citizen Satisfaction Survey was conducted in 2005, this survey provided valuable information for City Council when they developed their 2006-2008 Operating Budget.

Business Units completed business plans with performance measures to ensure the alignment of services in support of the corporate goals and objectives. The inclusion of performance measures further strengthened the linkage between planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluating.

## 4. SUPPORT

City employees are creative, innovative and skilled. Their involvement in corporate decision making is key in making improvements to the processes that serve the community. The Corporation is committed to creating an environment which fosters involvement of all employees in shaping new skills, capabilities and relationships.



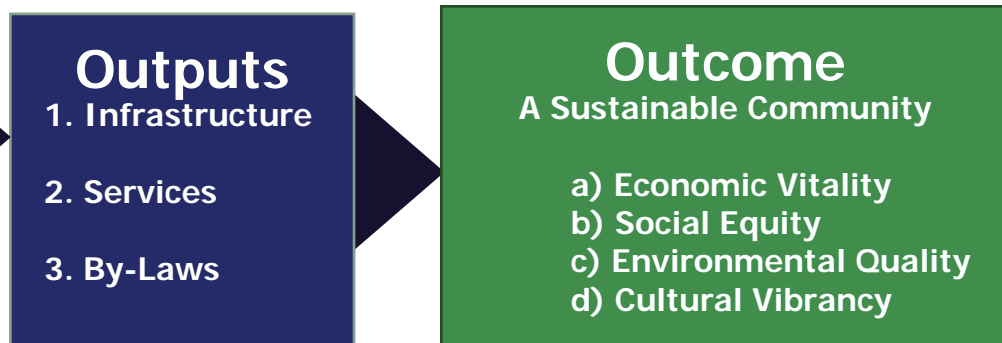
# City Manager's Message

The Corporation of the City of Lethbridge provides the majority of the services citizens count on in their daily lives. Behind each dollar spent is a different city service, and behind each city service or program is a team of dedicated professionals delivering that service. Taxpayers have a vested interest in their municipal government and we recognize the community's demand for responsible management of their tax dollars and their entitlement to receive quality services for those dollars. Our commitment to the citizens of Lethbridge is evidenced in our 2005 Citizen Satisfaction Survey results which revealed that 98% of residents are satisfied with the overall level and quality of city services and, further, that 98% rate the quality of life in Lethbridge as favourable.

In 2005, the Leaders Team worked closely with the Mayor and members of City Council as one Team with distinct roles to create an integrated strategic plan which is outlined in "Working Together for Tomorrow – An Integrated Strategic Plan for the City of Lethbridge." Through this document, Council has stated their strategic direction and staff across the corporation are working diligently to achieve the desired results. This organization is relentless in our pursuit of ways to improve the programs and services we provide, for the benefit of all Lethbridge citizens.

In 2006, the City resumed all billing and customer care services associated with City utilities plus regulated rate electric customers. We continued land use planning for Benton Crossing, the future activity hub of West Lethbridge; we serviced additional industrial lands in North Lethbridge; and we received a 10-year operating licence renewal for the Regional Landfill. In addition, we received an unprecedented score of 91% in an external audit of all of our Health and Safety processes leading to the renewal of our Certificate of Recognition from Alberta Occupational Health & Safety.

In addition to our regular service delivery role, some of the projects that staff will be working on in 2007 include completion of the 2008-2017 Capital Improvement Program; servicing in Benton Crossing to facilitate the start of construction of two new high schools and the Community Library; creating a Community Sustainability Plan; completing the Asset Management Plan; and migration of all data and processes to a new Financial/Management Information System. We will also be conducting a Census and a Municipal Election.



The successes highlighted in this report are a tribute to our community partners and dedicated employees who care deeply about the programs and services we provide to the public. New challenges will continue to come our way in 2007 and we believe this organization has the right people and right focus to continue to meet those challenges. Our committed staff continues to pursue the vision for Lethbridge to be a healthy, attractive and economically viable city, a place where the residents of Lethbridge can live, grow and prosper.

Bryan Horrocks, P. Eng  
City Manager





## GALT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

### 2006 – the Galt Museum & Archives reopens!

In early 2006, Galt staff regrouped from their various temporary locations throughout the city into the newly expanded facility. With work continuing on finishing touches in preparation for the Grand Opening on May 6 – the \$8.9 million expansion project was coming to an end! The project would not have been possible without the incredible support of both City Council and the Leadership Team. Reg Areshenko is to be commended for his hard work and dedication in managing the building project, and Darrell Mathews for overseeing the financial reporting and management for the duration of the project. Thank you.



The return to the new building and grand opening preparations were major events in the history of the Galt Museum. Along with this came the implementation of new programs for school groups and general visitors; orientation manuals for museum hosts; a branding strategy; policies on facility rental and other operational policies. Volunteer program details were worked out; equipment and furniture acquired; new website, museum brochure, banners and other promotional materials designed; additional staff brought on board, the Growing Our Legacy Capital Campaign continued; and the permanent exhibit was finalized and put in place under the supervision of the Galt Museum's Exhibit Designer, Brad Brown.

The Grand Opening week began with a Blackfoot Blessing Ceremony on May 1, followed by the sold-out Friends of the Galt Evening of Celebration on May 4, as well as an elegant Gala Celebration for donors and stakeholders on May 5. The public Grand Opening on May 6 was an official City of Lethbridge Centennial event, with 3,500 people taking in the day-long festivities and entertainment, organized by Lori Mitchell, to discover the new museum.



# Highlights and Achievements

The main level of the new Galt features the Discovery Hall – a dedicated and environment-controlled exhibit space; a stunning Viewing Gallery overlooking the Oldman River Valley – the site of wedding receptions, ceremonies and special community events; an Education Centre housing the Community Savings Learning Studio, Lethbridge Ironworks Classroom, Friends of the Galt Board and Meeting Rooms; and a 1,200 square foot Museum Store highlighting the stories told in the Discovery Hall. The lower level of the new Galt includes the expanded Archives and Collections departments, where rolled storage has been installed to house the Galt's growing collection; the new Canbra Foods Galt Archives Reference Room and a Collections Meeting Room. Office space for the Friends of the Galt Society and the Lethbridge Historical Society has also been created. The upper level of the Galt has been renovated to house the administrative offices and the new Lethbridge Community Foundation Volunteer Centre.

The permanent exhibit Discover Southwestern Alberta in the Discovery Hall features eighteen modules, many of which have been sponsored through the Growing Our Legacy Campaign, including the Kainai Arbour, Chinese Story and Japanese Story exhibits, Streetcar Theatre, Flying High and The Red Coats exhibits, Coming to the Country, Soldier's Story and Lethbridge Herald exhibits. The temporary exhibit space opened with Fifties Forever [circulated by Glenbow Museum] in May, followed in September by the Festival of Quilts and the Teddy Bear Christmas display with close to 100 bears on temporary loan from local and area residents.

The return of the cultural and archival collections was overseen by the Collections Manager and the Archives staff. While the Archives Department was able to relocate its materials to new rolled storage in time to reopen to researchers in February, Project Homecoming wrapped up in July for the Collections Department, two months later than planned due to the intricate nature of the job and the careful reorganization of the 15,000 objects into their new rolled storage locations. Collections Technician Kevin MacLean, assisted by temporary Collections Assistants and dedicated volunteers deserve special recognition on the completion of a complex and tedious job. The Collections Department was able to lift its moratorium on donations in August and has received a number of interesting objects since, while the Archives Department continued fielding inquiries generated by the successful Archives Online – the world-wide accessible portal to our archival holdings.



# Highlights and Achievements



In 2006 the Galt Board and staff congratulated Archivist Greg Ellis on 25 years of employment with the City and welcomed new Finance Officer Evelyn Yackulic, who follows in Dana Eliason's footsteps, while Curator Wendy Aitkens began her tenure in November. A number of Facility Attendants were brought on board to help manage the growing facility rental program and Lea-Ann Owsley began taking over the booking tasks from Lori Mitchell.



Until mid-April, Education Coordinator Belinda Crowson and dedicated volunteers continued to deliver programs – including those redesigned to meet new Curriculum requirements to southern Alberta schools. Once the Galt reopened to the public, weekly Saturday programs resumed, along with other public programs such as guided hospital, cemetery and walking tours, treasure hunts and backpacks, exhibit-related brochures, and the loan of Memory Boxes and education artifacts. New programs introduced included Café Galt and roving interpreter tours. Partnership programs were delivered in conjunction with the Lethbridge Centennial Quilters' Guild, Lethbridge Historical Society, Historica Heritage Fair, Historic Lethbridge Week/Doors Open Lethbridge, and ArtWalk, as well as the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre in the form of Wild Tales on Park Trails tours. From May through December, 5,124 people participated in education programs; 2,252 students were able to attend by means of our free busing program. 8,293 people participated in public programs.



The Special Events Coordinator continued to present events in alternate locations until we could host the public in the new building: Robbie Burns Day and Easter Eggstravaganza were held at Lethbridge Centre for the second year, where the nationally touring Tibetan Buddhist Monks created a Sand Mandala during the week they were in Lethbridge. Proceeds from the second annual Scenic Plaza Block Party in August [organized by CBI, Clarica, Community Savings, Galt Museum, Green Acres Foundation and Tim Horton's] were donated to local food banks. The annual Galt Beer Tasting was moved to September and attendance doubled; the new Cemetery Tours by Flashlight held in October sold out; and both the Halloween and Christmas Sleepovers were well-attended.



The Galt Gift Shop reopened as the Galt Museum Store in its new space off the new entrance, following a full year of operations at Park Place Shopping Centre. The Museum Store – itself the site of a variety of book launches and signings – is managed by Michelle Christensen, and in addition to carrying exhibit-related merchandise to enhance a visitor's memories of the Galt, is the central location for the dissemination of memberships, tickets and information. The new shopping bags featuring images selected from the Archives arrived in time for the Christmas season.



# Highlights and Achievements

The \$2.8 million Growing Our Legacy Capital Campaign and Buy-A-Brick portion of the Campaign continued throughout the year. The Campaign Cabinet – led by Chair Tim Greenlee and honorary co-chairs Don Young and Hazel Mitchell and supported behind-the-scenes by a number of Galt staff members, especially Anine Vonkeman – continued to raise funds and build community relationships. Approximately 60% of capital costs were secured by year-end, with the support of 400 businesses, foundations, organizations and individuals – an unprecedented feat for the Galt Museum & Archives, which will continue to build on this success in 2007 and beyond.

In addition to implementing the 2006-08 Business Plan, the Board of Directors adopted a Governance Manual compiled by Anne Ewan; as well as Policies and Memoranda of Agreements with the City of Lethbridge, the Lethbridge and District Historical Society, and the Friends of the Galt Museum & Archives. The Board also discussed succession planning and said goodbye to outgoing President Doug McLaughlin in September, who was instrumental in the Expansion Project. He was succeeded by Lucelle Prindle.

Finally, all of the above was overseen by CEO/Executive Director Ron Ulrich, whose tireless energy and visionary leadership allowed the Galt Museum & Archives staff and stakeholders to create a brand-new museum for Lethbridge and area. The Board and staff of the Galt Museum & Archives are very appreciative of the many community partners, supporters and 140 volunteers who have supported their efforts through partnerships, advice, financial support and 3,800 hours of volunteer time – thank you!

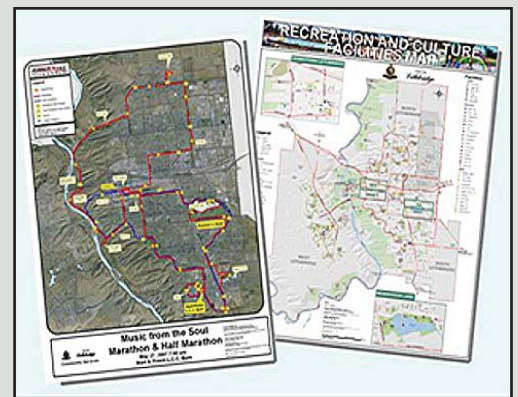


## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

In 2006 the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) underwent some evolutionary changes as it migrated from the desktop to a browser environment. This is a pretty significant change. In a desktop environment, any software upgrades had to be made directly to the user's computer. By moving to a browser environment, we only have to upgrade software at the application server. The end result is a seamless upgrade that has minimal impact on the end-user.

This migration also included the integration of the City's GIS with Tempest and permitting software currently being used by Development Services. The integration allows users to access the City's spatial data directly from Tempest software.

Two of the City's GIS staff were recognized with mapping awards at the 2006 GeoAlberta Conference held in Edmonton. First place in the Best Cartographic category was awarded to Karen Armstrong, while Dan McGee was awarded first place for Best Non-Traditional Use of a map. This represents the second time in three years that the City has been recognized for its cartographic achievements.



# Highlights and Achievements

## HELEN SCHULER COULEE CENTRE



The Helen Schuler Coulee Centre is Lethbridge's urban Nature Centre and has been offering visitors a chance to experience nature first-hand since 1982. In 2006 nearly 25,000 people of all ages experienced and discovered what Lethbridge's unique natural environment offers.



The three local nature themes highlighted in exhibits in 2006 were Wild Dogs of Lethbridge, Wildflowers and Sleep and Rest In Animals. About 12,000 people dropped in to explore these hands-on seasonal exhibits.

Just over 10,000 individuals participated in nearly 500 interpreter led programs offered at the Centre in 2006. From multi-generational Sunday nature walks to teen programs, and school programs to adult natural history courses, the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre offered a nature interpreter led program for everyone.

Parkland interpretation grew in 2006, with a partnership with the Galt Museum and Archives programming staff. Individual City of Lethbridge parks were profiled weekly during the months of July and August. Just over 300 residents took in this unique mix of cultural and natural history features in each of these parks throughout the summer.



The Helen Schuler Coulee Centre staff, volunteers and Lethbridge residents celebrated nature by participating in a variety of conservation related projects from the community to national level.

The Nature Centre participated in Bridge Day at the University of Lethbridge (celebrating Environment Week), Pitch-In Canada and the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up, as well as hosting its own annual conservation events such as Christmas Craft Evenings and the Annual Re-gifting Event. Nearly 200 individuals participated in these conservation related activities.



Lethbridge and area residents volunteered 1,600 hours of their time in a variety of roles at the Centre in 2006. The vibrant volunteer base contributes strong links within the community as well as contributes an estimated \$30,000 of gifted time to the Nature Centre annually. These individuals celebrate their love of nature by sharing it with others in their community.



# Highlights and Achievements

## INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT

2006 saw the formation of an integrated business unit model which brought together internal service providers from Risk Management, Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Services, who all share a common set of core values and principles. Occupational health and safety, general risk management and, in recent years, environmental strategies have become increasingly important in loss prevention. Integrated risk management therefore creates the systems necessary to effectively reduce losses to people, property and the environment. In support of integration and its systems, the following are noteworthy:

- Two Field Risk Safety Coordinators were imbedded into Infrastructure and Community Services to advance integrated risk management thinking at the field level throughout the organization;
- The creation of standard corporate tools which will assist business units in risk identification and mitigation strategies;
- Developed and implemented a new process to update corporate data for our insurance renewal;
- Negotiated favorable renewal terms on our 2006-2007 insurance program which came in substantially under budget;
- Our employees ongoing commitment to the importance of occupational health and safety in the workplace was confirmed by the successful renewal of our *Certificate of Recognition* and continued participation in the *Alberta Partners in Injury Reduction program*.



# Highlights and Achievements



## ENMAX CENTRE

Lethbridge and the surrounding area benefit greatly from the ENMAX Centre's ability to attract a wide variety of quality events from around the world. Thirty years after the official opening, the venue continues to host numerous sporting events, large concerts, circuses, bull riding, arena cross and many other entertaining events.

Home to the WHL hockey team, the Lethbridge Hurricanes, fans enjoy evening entertainment at a regional level. Support for the community owned club continues to rise. Corporate sponsorship for the hockey team (as well as special events) have risen year after year, and support from the Lethbridge community and shareholders is strong, with 43 hockey games during 2006 and an excess of 149,995 fans in attendance at these games.



In 2006, the ENMAX Centre was proud to attract and host over 52 performances and/or event days with large named entertainers including Nickelback, Bryan Adams, Lord of the Dance, Beach Boys, George Canyon, Our Lady Peace, Charley Pride, Motley Crue, Larry the Cable Guy, and Bachman-Cummings. Almost 86,000 fans attended the various special events this past year.

In addition, the venue played host to amazing sporting events, including the Celebration On Ice Tour with Elvis Stojko and Kurt Browning; Alberta Arena Cross Championships; three Rumble in the Cage UFC events; Harlem Globetrotters; and for the first time ever, Lethbridge held the Battle of Alberta National Lacrosse game between the Calgary Roughnecks and the Edmonton Rush.



During the 2006 year, there were numerous projects taken on by the venue, including the ongoing efforts to attract and retain a new venue name sponsor. As well, projects were started on acquiring a new Point of Sale system for our food & beverage department, a new Video Screen Score Clock, Highway Marquis Sign, and the ENMAX Centre Master Facility Plan proposal.



# Highlights and Achievements

## LA TRANSIT

The year 2006 was a very eventful year for LA Transit, which included service expansions, new buses, a new transit terminal and the development of transit service standards. Ridership continued to grow in 2006, with 2.8 million customers using our services, representing an increase of 13% over 2005. School bus ridership totaled 4,500 students per day.

The year began with expanded bus service in West Lethbridge, improving services to Indian Battle Heights and Heritage Heights. Our customers responded with a 35% increase in ridership in that area of the city.

The major service change occurred in July, with the opening of the new North Lethbridge Transit Terminal, located at 26th Avenue and 13th Street North. This was the first off-street transit-exclusive terminal constructed in Lethbridge (the other terminals are located at the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College). Coincident with the opening of the new terminal, all north-side routes were redesigned to improve service to existing customers and to attract new customers to LA Transit. By the end of 2006, overall transit ridership in North Lethbridge had increased by 8%.

In response to City Council's objective, *"to increase transit ridership through the implementation of cost effective strategies that meet the needs of the growing community within a defined level of service"*, LA Transit conducted a transit service standards review in 2006. Service standards are actually policy statements by the citizens as to what they want transit to be in their community. The standards define the minimum level of service that will be provided. Superior service (i.e., service above the standards) will be provided where demand warrants. LA Transit conducted an extensive community consultation process to develop the service standards, which were ultimately approved by City Council. The service standards will be used to develop the transit service expansion plans for 2007 and beyond.

In September, LA Transit unveiled eight new low floor buses at a ceremony including guests from all three levels of government and the Executive Committee of the Canadian Urban Transit Association. By purchasing these vehicles, Lethbridge became the first small city in Alberta to benefit from the Federal New Deal for Cities and Communities Program which is funded by gasoline tax rebates. With the addition of these new vehicles, LA Transit can now offer fully accessible transit services on all of our scheduled service throughout the community. In conjunction with the eight other buses purchased in late 2005 – and also funded by the New Deal for Cities and Communities – LA Transit's fleet is now one of the newest transit fleets in Canada.

LA Transit continued to work with post secondary students and seniors in 2006 to lay the groundwork for service improvements to these customer groups into the future.



# Highlights and Achievements

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



The initial year of our three year strategic plan rolled out with new opportunities and several challenges in managing our organizational and community growth. The first steps of working on our strategic plan have given us an excellent overview of the requirement to create a long-range plan. We began working on our Community Risk Assessment project which involved facilities functional review and call data evaluation. This information will be used in preparing for future service models as well identifying our Standards of Coverage which will include current level of service evaluation, community profiles, hazard assessments, and options to manage risk.



The past year has been exciting and challenging in the EMS training division. On and off shift training accounted for almost 3,700 hours of EMS training for all of our staff. We have hosted twenty-four paramedic practicum students, of whom the majority are from our local and regional area. One of the most exciting endeavours was to introduce all of our members to the "SPHERE Training Lab" at the Lethbridge Community College. This human patient simulator laboratory allows Paramedics and EMT-A's the opportunity to practice basic and advanced skills in real-time patient scenarios.



Through the tenacious efforts of our staff, we were able to begin submitting our patient care records electronically to the Province in compliance with the Alberta Ambulance Information Management System legislation. This was a bold step for the third busiest service in the Province. Our vital decisions and future strategies will be guided by this warehouse of data. The accuracy of information that is available from the system will be used in developing our training, as well as modeling our response systems to best serve our community.



Our community Disaster Plan was revised and updated and changes to our Municipal Disaster Bylaw were completed in the fall. The new changes brought forward include revisions of the bylaw to assure alignment to the Disaster Plan. We began the process of creating a Pandemic Plan that will act as the guideline for managing our municipal services through this type of long-term event.



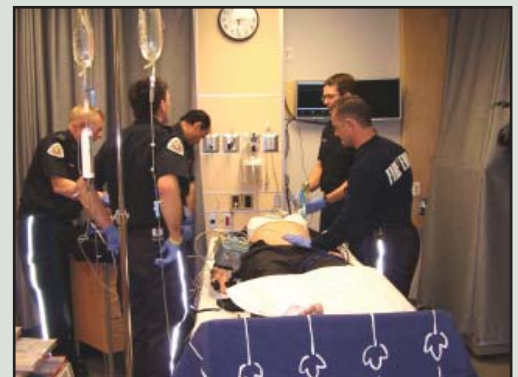
# Highlights and Achievements

Changes in the Fire Emergency Training Centre course curriculum have required us to modify how we deliver our Officer Training Program and an accelerated course delivery was required for us to complete this training. Several of our staff completed their Fire Services Structure Training for Level 1 and Level 2. This will promote the delivery of courses in-house rather than traveling to the training school in Vermillion, AB.

A concentrated focus on our department's Safety Program has introduced a higher level of accountability to all employees. We completed several key areas of compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety legislation. The equipment for high angle and confined space rescue was acquired and training is ongoing.

The Fire Prevention Division has continued to enhance our Evening Inspection Program and we are recognizing the decreased frequency of overcrowding. Through a partnership with the Insurance Bureau of Canada, several key safety events, which included an ice rescue demonstration and a home and driving safety display, provided interactive opportunities to the public.

An additional ambulance was introduced in July to further manage the increased ambulance call volume during night hours. This enhancement to the response model provides four ambulances operating 24 hours a day. This change has further reduced the occurrence of "Code Red" situations during the evenings. A new ambulance service agreement was signed with the Town of Coalhurst which addresses liability issues and recovery for preparedness costs.



# Highlights and Achievements

## LETHBRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES



### Regional Policing Population

- Excess of 85,000

### Lethbridge Regional Police Service

- 141 sworn members
- 43 non-sworn members
- 50 volunteers

### Police To Population Ratio

- 1:603

### Operational Budget

- \$17,533,000

### Total Police Actions Taken

- Excess of 42,000

### 911 Calls Received

- 34,644 (Mar-Dec)



### Change of Leadership

In 2006, the Lethbridge Regional Police Service saw a change in leadership with John Middleton-Hope leaving the Service in August after 4 years as Chief of Police. The process to identify and hire a new Chief of Police was then established by the Lethbridge Police Commission. During that process, Inspector Eugene Wehlage was named Interim Chief of Police. Inspector Wehlage held the office of Chief of Police from August 2006 until the end of December 2006 and has since returned to his previous assignment. In late December 2006, Inspector Tom McKenzie of the Lethbridge Regional Police Service was successful in his application to become the Chief of Police and began his duties as of January 1, 2007.

### Serious and Organized Crime

2006 saw new partnerships and expansion in the Criminal Investigation Division of the Service to meet the challenges of Serious Crimes and Organized Crime. Partnership with the Province of Alberta saw the creation of two new Investigation positions in the Major Crimes Section: Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE), and Alberta Relationship & Threat Assessment Management Initiative (ARTAMI). The Organized Crime Section also saw an expansion in two areas: The Lethbridge Integrated Intelligence Unit (LIU) expanded with the addition of a RCMP officer and The Economic Crimes Unit expanded by one Investigator with the addition of a Constable from within the Service.

### Victim/Witness Services

Victim/Witness Services is located within the LRPS and is comprised of a civilian Program Manager, four staff, two Administration volunteers and 50 Crisis Support Workers. Immediate service is provided 24/7/365 to people who are impacted by crime/tragedy. The team provides emotional and practical support, resources and referrals to appropriate community agencies. The program also acts as a central information point, providing information regarding status of investigations, court cases, trial dispositions, etc, as well as court preparation and accompaniment. Information about restitution, Victim Impact Statements and Financial Benefits is also available.

### Technology

Advancements in technology and the need to replace outdated hardware and software saw the Police Service embark upon the change out of our records management system (RMS) and mobile data terminals (MDT's). This Service wide initiative required the engagement of a full-time implementation and training team. Over 200 employees were trained in three months and the Service successfully migrated to an entirely new system of electronic record creation, retrieval and storage.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Community Resource Unit

During 2006, members of the School Resource Unit recognized a need to update current programming presented to grade 7 students. Subsequently, a sub-committee was formed within the Assisted Learning Environment Response Team. It was learned that four areas drew the most concern for grade 7 students; drugs and their effects, intimidation, weapons and gangs, and internet safety. Information was collected and presentations developed resulting in a new program entitled "What's Out There?" The project was launched in late 2006 at the ALERT Annual General Meeting and will be presented to all grade 7 students within the ALERT Coordinating Committee. Approximately 1,200 students will receive this training every year.

## Community Involvement in Special Olympics

In June 2006, the Lethbridge Regional Police Service participated in sending a 4 person long distance cyclist team to ride from Lethbridge to Edmonton, non-stop in a 24 hour period. The team was raising money for the Law Enforcement Torch Run to help fund Special Olympic Athletes. The Lethbridge Regional Police Service team consisted of S/Sgt. Leavitt, Cst. Williamson, Cst. Millband and Cst. Easter. Other members of the service, Cst. MacGregor and Cst. Ward, assisted the group ride by providing a police vehicle escort to ensure the riders safety while traveling on the highways and through urban areas. The Lethbridge Regional Police Service team and some members of the R.C.M.P. team rode from Lethbridge to Calgary where they joined with the Calgary Police Service team and continued the ride to Edmonton. Through donations, the entire fundraiser was able to raise approximately \$100,000.

## Recruiting for the Future

In 2006 the Lethbridge Regional Police Service recruited and trained two Recruit Classes. Recruit Class of 2006 Spring had 11 new police officers and Recruit Class 2006 Fall had 10 new police officers.

## Immigrants learn Policing is Different in Canada

The Lethbridge Regional Police Service Cultural Liaison Officer, Cst. George Carscadden partnered with Lethbridge Family Services-Immigrant Services and presented "You and The Law", a three part series program directed at new immigrants to Canada. "You and the Law" covers a range of topics, including traffic safety, domestic violence issues, liquor laws, how to report crimes, the impact of a criminal record, crime prevention and the rights and responsibilities of residents. In 2006, a group of Sudanese and Afghani nationals were presented with certificates for completing the program.



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION CENTER



The Public Safety Communications Centre (PSCC) provides 911 call answering and emergency services dispatching for the City of Lethbridge and surrounding communities. The centre is staffed 24/7 by a dedicated group of highly trained Communication Specialists. The PSCC handles emergency calls from the majority of South Western Alberta – The County of Lethbridge Westwards and South of the Municipal District of Willow Creek.

The PSCC is an integrated communications centre looking after police, fire and emergency medical services for the City. The employees have continued with cross training, bringing up the number of specialists capable of working within all three disciplines. This improves the flexibility of staffing and increases call-handling capacity.



In 2006, the City conducted a nation-wide search to attract a new PSCC manager. The City was able to secure someone with extensive experience and education in Public Safety Communications.

Technology advances necessitated a change in format for the method that 911 calls are tracked and captured. A new 911 computer was installed in March for this purpose. The PSCC received and processed more than 31,000 911 calls since that time.

Minor physical changes to the layout of the PSCC resulted in improved information flow between operators and reduced the level of noise within the centre.



The Centre utilizes Emergency Medical and Emergency Fire dispatch protocols to guide the call takers. These protocols indicate the standardized questions that must be asked of the callers and follow up instructions to ensure consistency in the prioritization and response to particular call types. The Lethbridge Regional Police Service has approved similar Emergency Police Dispatch protocols to be used by the Communications Specialists when processing calls of a police nature. Management and staff are looking forward to this implementation in 2007.



## LETHBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

During 2006, residents were encouraged to envision 'Your Library Tomorrow'. The Lethbridge Public Library Board unveiled the results of the 2005 Needs Assessment and Facilities Strategic Plan Study, which spoke to a 25-year strategic plan for library services, by presenting six different library service models at a series of open houses held in the community. From the input received and the analysis of the Study, the Library Board was able to adopt a 25-year strategic direction which includes a West Lethbridge Community Library Branch, two smaller neighbourhood branches (potentially one each in north and south Lethbridge) and a new Main Library located downtown.

Preliminary plans were also unveiled for the West Lethbridge Library Branch by SHB Architects with emphasis on the Branch as a focal point within the West Lethbridge Centre and reflection on its role as a dynamic urban catalyst. The Library Board secured \$8 million in funding from the City of Lethbridge for the construction of a 20,000 sq. ft. Library / civic gathering place within the high schools / public library / sports fields complex.

With one time special funding from the Province of Alberta, the Library was able to launch into a new era of becoming a multi-branch system by renovating the Main Library's South Wing to emulate a Community Branch service, showcasing leisure / popular reading activities in the South Wing, creating a new space for teens, and making the Library a premier gathering place. Details showcasing this new Downtown Library Experience were shared at the 2nd Annual Connecting People to Ideas event in October.

In 2006, close to 575,000 people visited the Library and 48,717 stopped at the Bookmobile. A total of 863,210 items were used. As a welcoming gathering spot for children, teens, and adults of all ages the Library had over 500 programs which attracted 40,000 people.

Access to a variety of 'online' library services from home, school or the office increased as Internet searches of the Library catalogue and databases that the Library subscribes to totaled 843,657. General visits to the Library home page ([www.lethbridgepubliclibrary.ca](http://www.lethbridgepubliclibrary.ca)) were 181,060.

In September, Chinook Arch Regional Library System (through the provision of wireless access) allowed LPL Bookmobile patrons use of online functions similar to those that have been available to patrons of the Main Library.

The dedication of the Lois Hole Memorial Garden, a joint project of the Library, Lethbridge and District Horticultural Society and the City of Lethbridge was held on International Literacy Day in September, with Jim Hole unveiling the plaque.



The Lethbridge Community Information Directory is available online through our website [www.lethbridgepubliclibrary.ca](http://www.lethbridgepubliclibrary.ca). This Directory provides a comprehensive indexed, easily searchable, listing of non-profit community associations and service providers in Lethbridge.

## “Bringing Lethbridge Home”

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: WORKING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY

The Community & Social Development (CSD) Group is proud to have completed the community social assets and needs assessment and the subsequent approval of the Social Policy. This policy provides the framework for addressing the social priorities in Lethbridge and focuses on our strengths as a community. These include the:

- leadership role of the City,
- ability to facilitate collaboration between groups and
- the support to our community partners to deal with complex social issues.

The overall social well-being of Lethbridge citizens continues to be the significant beacon used by the Community & Social Development Committee to oversee the implementation of the Social Policy. As outlined in the Social Policy, the City of Lethbridge has commenced the strategic implementation of identified priorities under the leadership of Barb Cunningham, Chair.

#### Our Priorities

Identified priorities include those circumstances that impact opportunities for people's healthy development and lead to their social well being. These priorities include: housing, transportation, the engagement of youth in community; social development opportunities, and the development of a futuristic Community Plan to create a senior-friendly community.

#### Housing Policy

Access to safe and affordable housing is a determinant in the health of individuals and families. As such, it is also a priority in our community. In recognition of a significantly low vacancy rate and lack of available affordable rental and ownership opportunities, City Council has requested the Affordable Housing Committee to take a leadership role by conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and develop policy that will address the needs, roles and partnerships required to increase housing for people and families living with low incomes.

City Council also implemented a Rent Supplement program through the Lethbridge Housing Authority. Over 59 families living with a low income have been able to improve the quality of their lives through this program, living in accessible, safe and affordable housing.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Participation in Community Life

### Transportation:

A complete review of transportation for the senior population in Lethbridge has commenced. Again, working within the community and through a collaborative partnership with the Seniors Community Forum, Nord-Bridge Seniors Citizens Association, the Lethbridge Seniors Citizens Organization, Transit Services and the Community & Social Development Group, a thorough study and review of the needs, specialized transportation systems and senior program needs commenced. Challenges to ensure adequate coverage and improve accessibility for those who rely most heavily on the system, will better meet the needs of seniors and person with disabilities.

### Supports for Youth

Based on community research, youth in Lethbridge identified their lack of involvement and ability to have a voice related to the issues they encounter. The active engagement of youth is initiated and plans for a Youth Summit are underway for early 2007. It is anticipated the outcome of this summit will be a strengthened and shared understanding of the current issues faced by youth ages 15-24 in Lethbridge. Youth will also have the opportunity to shape the direction required for recreational and social opportunities, address their issues related to poverty, substance use and bullying. They will do this by providing input in the design of the community and related programs.

### Supports for Seniors

Through a grant with New Horizons, the Community & Social Development Group supported the Seniors Community Forum to host "**Seniors 2006 & Beyond: Shaping the Next Century**" a community consultation & planning forum. 150 participants attended a two day session which, in conjunction with additional research, will form the foundation for a futuristic Community Plan for Seniors.



## FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS)



Integral in Community & Social Development, the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a partnership between the Province of Alberta and the City of Lethbridge. FCSS Lethbridge assists the community in identifying needs, as well as supports and funds local preventative social services programming.

The City of Lethbridge, through Family and Community Support Services, collaborates with twenty seven contracted agencies and numerous programs to address social need and further strengthens families and the community. Programs provide services to all age groups and people. FCSS Lethbridge funds such programs as:

- Subsidized counselling and education
- Home support for seniors and persons with disabilities
- Life skills, social supports and outreach to all demographics
- Out-of-school care for school age children
- Emergency and relief child care
- Support for volunteerism
- Public education and awareness
- Community Mediation

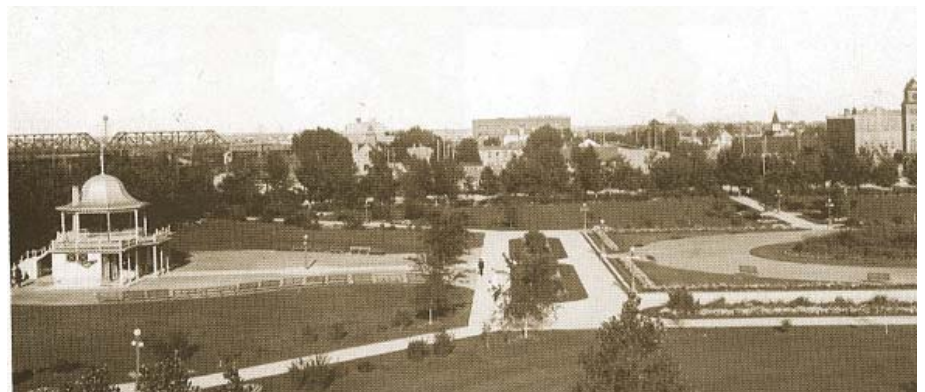


In 2006, the City of Lethbridge FCSS negotiated and developed outcomes-based contracting with our funded agencies. We continue to work with our agencies toward ensuring continuous quality improvement and accountability.

During the past five years, Lethbridge FCSS has been a provincial leader in evidence based outcome evaluation. Through this initiative, the effectiveness of services and the impact to the community are clearly defined. We were proud to see our second "Making a Difference" 2005 Outcome Evaluation Report receive provincial and national recognition. The aggregate data supported the Provincial FCSS Review process and outcome.

### Provincial FCSS:

In addition to the local FCSS program, the CSD Group collaborated with the South Region FCSS Directors to plan, coordinate and host the Fall Provincial FCSS Directors Network. Barb Cunningham, the Chair of the Standing committee on Community & Social Development and Diane Randell, Manager, CSD Group sat on the provincial FCSS Association of Alberta Board of Directors.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Strengthening our Partnering Agencies through Board and Organizational Development

The CSD Group offered ongoing training in outcomes measurement, evaluation and report writing. In addition, the CSD Group partnered with Parks, Recreation and Culture to support the Ketchum Fundraising Workshops. Working with Volunteer Lethbridge and education institutes, the CSD Group has designed a curriculum for enhancing organizational capacities and Board Development education and support. The CSD Group also provides information on current relevant training, funding opportunities and issues that may impact agencies and their client groups.

## Prevention of Family Violence: "End the Silence: Stop the Violence"

Family violence and abuse continues to impact families and individuals in our community. The CSD Group successfully applied for a Community Incentive Funding grant. A variety of media campaigns targeting all demographics are being launched. These include bus signage, poster contests at the University of Lethbridge and campaigns targeting movie-goers. This project continues into 2007.

## Elder Abuse

Elder Abuse awareness continues to be a priority in the prevention programming for the senior population. In collaboration with provincial counterparts, the City of Lethbridge continues to update provincial training materials, assist in the writing of the grant application for the development and design of a provincial Prevention of Elder Abuse website and to develop an Orientation Manual for the committee. A media campaign was organized for World Elder Abuse Day and the CSD Group assisted in Elder Abuse presentations to the Junior High Schools.

## Domestic Violence Action Team (DVAT)

As a partner to reduce the incidence of violence, bullying and assault in our community, the CSD Group facilitated a Search Conference to build on the success of DVAT and continue improvement to prevent, treat, enforce and reduce the harm caused by violence, assault, abuse and bullying in Lethbridge. The outcomes of the conference are currently being implemented.

## Sexual Violence Action Committee (SVAT)

The CSD Group assisted in the development of protocols and training for first responders to sexual violence and working with the allied stakeholders ensure prevention, treatment and enforcement protocols are developed and implemented.



# Highlights and Achievements



## Disaster (Emergency) Social Services

In the event of a disaster or mass casualty in our community, the CSD Group is responsible for the execution of the Disaster (Emergency) Social Services Plan. This includes Emergency Preparedness Planning in the community and providing agencies with information to assist with their preparation for emergency situations. Ongoing training and table top exercises are integral to our ongoing ability to respond appropriately to a disaster situation as a city.

## Community Substance Abuse Response Team (CSART)

The CSD Group responded to a community need regarding substance use and the initial threat of Crystal Meth in Lethbridge. Through an initial gathering of agencies and individuals impacted by substance use, the CSD Group assisted and facilitated the development, completion and launch of the Community Substance Abuse Response Team and Lethbridge Drug Strategy Plan. The focus of this community initiative is prevention, enforcement, treatment and harm reduction. A successful conference during National Addictions Awareness Week was supported by CSART, the partnering agencies and participants. Two additional public education and awareness sessions as well as school prevention programming was also sponsored through this consortium of agencies.



## Downtown Social Issues

The CSD Group also strengthens the community through participation and facilitation of groups who recognize social issues and needs in the community. The City Council identified social issues in the downtown, specifically Round Street, as a significant priority for review. The CSD Group oversaw this project and following appropriate research and working with the neighbours on Round Street, developed recommendations to be forwarded to City Council for consideration.



# Highlights and Achievements

## “Bringing Lethbridge Home”

The City of Lethbridge, through the CSD Group continues to function as the community entity for the National Homelessness Initiative and the Provincial Homelessness and Housing programs. Social Housing in Action (SHIA) believes that homelessness will be significantly reduced and ended when we are able to adequately house and support people with different needs. SHIA has adopted a “Housing First Strategy”. Every effort is being made to ensure the “right” type of housing with the “right” supports are available for people so they move from emergency situations to more permanent housing.

Through Social Housing in Action, the following are highlighted:

### Homeless Census

The 3rd annual Homeless Census was completed. The homeless population has doubled in Lethbridge and the emergency shelters for adults, youth and women and children continue to be pressured. Increased migration from other cities and provinces, lack of affordable housing options and supports, and a <0.2% vacancy rate contributed to this significant increase.

### Completion of the Construction of the Shelter, Resource Centre and Soup Kitchen

The official opening of the Soup Kitchen completes the co-location of services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. Services such as health, mental health, addictions counselling, career and employment and life skills to independence are provided at the Resource Centre in a coordinated manner. These are available to all people in need.

### Resource Centre Team

Pivotal to the “Bringing Lethbridge Home” is the prevention of homelessness and the rapid re-housing of people who are unable to maintain secure housing. The Resource Centre team and their services are also coordinated with the Emergency Shelter and community partners. The CSD Group supported the ongoing development of the team through policy and protocol development as well as continuous quality improvement strategies and program development.

### National Affordable Housing Day

SHIA hosted the first annual appreciation luncheon celebrating *National Affordable Housing Day* in November. Over 40 builders, developers and City officials participated in this first time event to raise awareness of the impact of safe, affordable and accessible housing has on the health and well-being of the community.



# Highlights and Achievements

## RECREATION & CULTURE

### 2006 Canadian National Outdoor 3D Archery Championship



The Canadian Archery Championship was held in Lethbridge at Pavan Park, August 4 to 7, 2006. Three hundred and eleven archers from eight provinces and Montana participated, ranging in age from five years old to seventy-three. All told, there were approximately 450 people in attendance at the event. Pavan Park proved to be the perfect venue with plenty of space to safely set up four courses for the Championship. The picnic shelter was used as a staging area as well as for the opening ceremonies, closing ceremonies, concession and barbeque.

### 2006 Canadian Junior/Juvenile Judo Championship



The 2006 Canadian Junior/Juvenile Judo Championships were a fitting championship to once again be held in Lethbridge during our centennial year, given the long and strong history that judo has in our community, and with the opening of the new Judo Centre.

Three hundred and sixty participants competed, bringing in over 500 spectators during the two day competition, followed by a 5 day training camp with approximately 200 attendees.

### Music from the Soul Marathon



The first annual "Music from the Soul Marathon" began on Saturday evening with a pasta party and guest speaker – providing fuel and inspiration to close to 400 of the 1,081 registered runners who competed on Sunday morning.

On May 28th another 500 volunteers weathered the rain as runners from across the country and parts of the US competed in the half or full marathon – some qualifying for the famous Boston Marathon held later in the year.

City support was provided through funding assistance, a volunteer aid station, and volunteer training. Participants reported that the course was challenging as the route took them from far south to north and in and out of the river valley. The volunteer support was "amazing".

Funding for each of these events was in part provided by the Civic Hosting grant.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Canada Day

Canada Day celebrations were kicked up a notch in 2006, as Lethbridge celebrated its 100th birthday as a city, and Canada Day became one of the four official celebrations.

Celebrations began at Fort Whoop-Up with a special historical re-enactment and Citizenship Court. Throughout the day, visitors were treated to old fashioned Dominion Day activities including a Blackfoot pipe smoke, wagon rides and a variety of pioneer activities.

Galt Gardens came alive with a Family Festival organized by Downtown Lethbridge and the Allied Arts Council in the morning, and wrapped up with the traditional Party in the Park, with an eclectic casting of bands entertaining the crowd throughout the afternoon.

Activities at Henderson Lake included a family BBQ sponsored by the Bulls Baseball Club, children's activities and a fabulous stage show showcasing the Centennial Band and Centennial Choir. The day's activities culminated with fireworks over the lake.

Birthday cake was the order of the day at all activities.

## Southern Alberta Summer Games

The 37th edition of the annual Southern Alberta Summer Games went pretty much as planned this past summer. Close to 2,500 competitors landed here to partake in the 21 sport extravaganza which included everything from lacrosse and rugby to swimming and BMX racing.

Athletes ranged in age from four to 82, and came from all corners of southern Alberta. Approximately four hundred people gathered in Henderson Park for the parade of athletes and opening ceremonies at the end of day one, highlighted by the lighting of the games torch by one of the first award recipients from 1976, Mr. Max Gibb himself.

At the end of four full days of competition, the Games wrapped up with closing ceremonies at the new Sherring Park soccer/rugby fields, where the torch was passed on to the Crowsnest Pass- 2007 games host.

## Yates Memorial Centre

2006 was another busy year at the Yates with community performers presenting a varied lineup of entertainment. Lethbridge Musical Theatre's feature performance was **Annie**. The Playgoers put on **Bedfull of Foreigners** & hosted the **Regional One Act Drama Festival**, and the Symphony's **A Little Night Music** contributed to a busy season along with four **Master Series Concerts**. Touring groups doubled in 2006 with names like **Colin James, Ron James, Brent Butt, Melissa O'Neil, Robert Munsch and Corb Lund**.



# Highlights and Achievements



## Community Savings Place

In September, the Lethbridge Soccer Association announced a 10 year partnership with Community Savings. The arrangement includes naming the 57,000 square foot soccer building, Community Savings Place, while providing support to help with capital improvements which are critical to the organization's ongoing success.



## Lethbridge Outdoor Soccer & Rugby Sports Field Complex

The 6 sport field complex, which celebrates the collaboration of soccer and rugby organizations, opened in 2006 for the first year of play. The 6 sports field site is 38.9 acres, has 430 trees in 30 shrub beds, a shared washroom and 386 parking stalls.

Six tournaments were hosted at the site including the Southern Alberta Summer Games, the Cosmos June Tournament, the popular youth Labour Day Weekend Tournament and three adult soccer league tournaments. The adult soccer leagues relocated, adopting the site as their primary home base. Rugby utilized the site in May & June for league play and practice.



The newly formed Outdoor Soccer Management Board completed one year of operation with a focus on policy development and planning for the future.



## Labor Club Ice Centre Upgrades in 2006

After over thirty years, and still sporting the original boards and glass, the Labor Club Ice Centre got a well deserved upgrade this year, alleviating health and safety concerns due to years of heavy use. The primary focus of the project included replacing the existing boards and glass with a new steel frame board system and tempered glass. The projected life cycle of the new system is 15 to 20 years.



# Highlights and Achievements

## National Slo-Pitch Championships

Teams from across Canada who came to participate in the National Molson Slo Pitch Mens C, Coed C and Womens B Championships were impressed with what they found in Softball Valley this past summer.

A patio beer garden and clubhouse with wraparound deck provided a great backdrop for socializing while 10 fenced, shaded and professionally groomed diamonds exceeded all expectations on the competition side. When all was said and done, local team Roughstock, fell short of a National title with a 4th place finish, but everyone went away happy wondering when Nationals would be held here again.

## Henderson Stadium Facility Upgrade Project 2006

2006 was the year that Henderson Stadium got a well deserved facelift and makeover, putting it back in the running both in terms of event hosting and as a training centre for young ball players. The 35 year old stadium required numerous upgrades including additional fencing, a broadcast booth upgrade, development of the maintenance and practices areas, administrative centre improvements, field development, spectator improvements, equipment replacements and signage improvements.

The project is 80% completed and is projected to be completed by the spring of 2007.



# Highlights and Achievements



## PARKS

### Cemetery Development and Management Plan

Cemetery operations completed a Development and Management Plan in 2006. The plan considers the current and projected demographics for Lethbridge and region as well as trends in interment preferences. This background information is used to predict the longevity of our current cemetery space and to identify the space requirements for new land to expand into. The report concluded that the current cemetery space is sufficient to meet demands for 7 to 12 years and a new location of approximately 100 acres will then be needed to meet requirements for an additional 70 years. This report will be used to guide the selection and development of new space and will be used to plan for the development of the new cemetery.



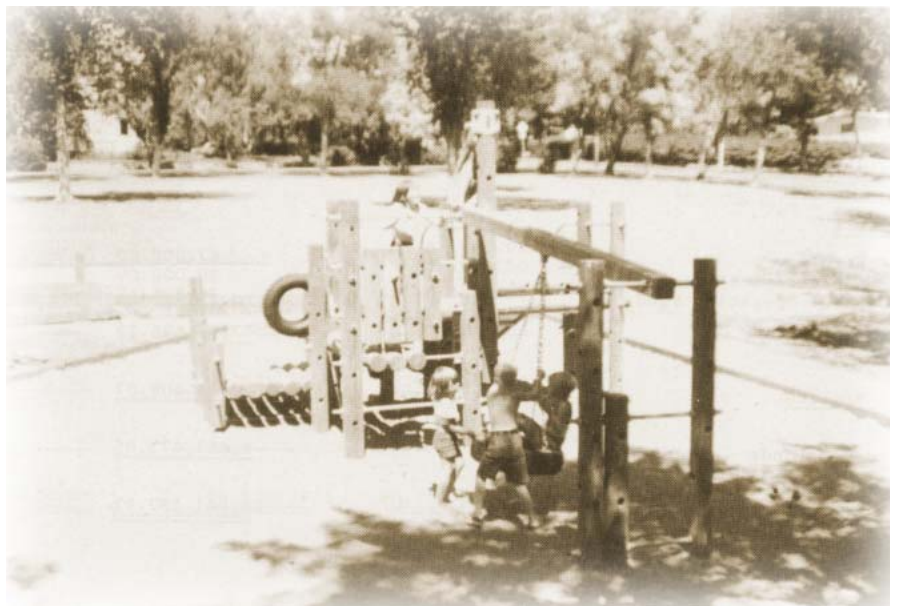
### Cemetery Grave Leveling Project

Over the course of several years, graves naturally settle and the surface of the cemetery becomes difficult to walk across and maintain. In 2006 a concentrated effort was made to reestablish the surface of the cemetery across existing graves. Approximately 2000 graves were repaired to provide a safer situation for the staff and public. This program has provided a significant improvement to the appearance of the cemetery. This program, designed to catch up with restoration, will finish in 2007.

### Playground Renovation

#### **St. Paul's School Play Unit**

St. Paul's School, located in North Lethbridge, began planning for a new play unit project in 2005, for construction in 2006. The project received funding support through school bake sales, community donations, work in kind, grant funding from the Community Facility Enhancement Program and the City of Lethbridge Community Capital Grant. The project was phased in two segments and was completed with volunteers in the spring of 2006.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Canyon Crest Park Play Unit

Located in West Lethbridge in the Melcor Developments Ltd. Paradise Canyon Subdivision the developer and the City of Lethbridge was approached by RBC Dominion Securities staff for inclusion in design, construction and funding of the play unit component. The RBC Dominion Securities group wanted to build a play unit that would be designed and constructed to be universally accessible. The developer, City of Lethbridge and the RBC Dominion Securities staff group formed a working committee who completed the project in the fall of 2006. This project was very special, as one of the RBC community volunteers had a child that needed an accessible play unit. The play unit received funding from the Community Facility Enhancement Program and the Alberta Recycling Management Authority Tire Recycling Division. The project was highly acknowledged and celebrated and was selected as a Government of Alberta "Alberta's Promise Project" for "commitment to our children and youth". The project was also selected as the site for the "40 million tires milestone celebration" for Alberta Recycling Management Authority Tire Recycling Division, a first for a community south of Calgary. The project used an approved Alberta Recycling product in the protective surfacing for the play unit.



## Henderson Lake Water Quality Report

Henderson Lake is nearing 100 years old and has evolved naturally, which has produced water quality less than what is desired by the community. The concentration of nutrients and the accumulation of organic sediment on the lake bottom is contributing to weed growth and algae blooms which distract from the recreational use of the lake. A report commissioned by Community Services, was completed in 2006 to guide the management and lifecycle of the lake to improve water quality in the future. The report recommends taking a more holistic and ecological look at management rather than looking for single solutions. SolarBees pumps were installed on a trial basis in 2006 to vertically mix water and improve the water quality. The trials had limited success and three of the solar powered pumps were purchased to use in the lake in the future.



## PARKS

### Park Development

#### **Mildred Dobbs and Elma Groves Park's**

New park development in subdivisions saw the construction of two parks in Legacy Ridge Subdivision. Mildred Dobbs and Elma Groves Park's were completed in 2006.

The Elma Groves Park, located in the south area of the subdivision, includes a play unit in an irrigated turf area and adjoining wetland.

Mildred Dobbs is an irrigated park located centrally within the subdivision. The park includes a central plaza that features the story of the "Women of Renown" for whom the surrounding streets are named. There is also a maze built into the grass. This maze is the first of this type in the Lethbridge parks system.

#### **West Highlands Park**

The park is located in West Lethbridge and is the primary park for the West Highlands subdivision. The park was completed in the fall of 2006. The park includes a storm water retention pond that is used to manage storm water runoff and reduce flooding risks to the community. There are many aesthetic features such as a walking trail around the water area, bridge, a gazebo to sit down under, an arbor to sit by and enjoy the water fountains in the lake, and a play unit for the children.

#### **Pathway Development**

One new "regional class trail" was installed along University Drive from Rocky Mtn. Blvd. to Macleod Drive. The 3-meter wide trail connects to the new SunRidge subdivision.

The trail at Henderson Lake Park was improved between the Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden and the Henderson Lake Golf Course. The pathway was narrow and was not meeting the community needs. In consultation with the golf course, the trail was widened and has improved visibility and safety.

#### **Irrigation System Management**

The Irrigation System Management Program installed new irrigation systems at two locations in 2006. Irrigation at the corner of St. Edwards and Stafford Drive North was upgraded from manual to automatic. This adds another area to the central control system fleet and affords an improved level of control and management. The other project was phase-1 of the automation of Mt. View Cemetery. The first phase was completed and will be operational in the spring of 2007.

Other significant projects included the repair of the Nicholas Sheran intakes and output mains around the irrigation pump house.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Communities in Bloom

The Communities in Bloom Committee was formed to represent the community at large and the City of Lethbridge. The services provided to the community were expanded in 2006. To celebrate the 100th birthday of Lethbridge, a Heritage Home tour was organized in the spring.

To contribute to the cleanliness of the city, major efforts were made to make the "Pitch in Challenge" successful. The hanging flower basket program was expanded to 38 in an effort to beautify the downtown area. The committee also hosted a delegation of judges who looked at the city and awarded the City of Lethbridge with a 5 Bloom award, the highest award possible in the National competition. Special mention was awarded to the Cemetery for the attractiveness of the grounds.

## Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden Kiosk Project

The Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden is the number one tourist attraction in Lethbridge and surrounding area. It is located along the shore of Henderson Lake Park. The attraction has operated seasonally and has been without adequate souvenir display and gift shop facilities. The new kiosk building provides year round retail space for sales of gifts and souvenirs, as well as class space for education in the Japanese culture for both visitors of the garden and the citizens of Lethbridge. The kiosk building commenced construction in late 2005 and was completed in the summer of 2006.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Parks Asset Inventory and Condition Audit



Over the last hundred years, the people of Lethbridge have been investing in the parks and green spaces that contribute so much to our quality of life. Today, the value of that investment is estimated at over \$350 million dollars!

The City of Lethbridge partnered with the University of Lethbridge to create an asset inventory and condition assessment of the City's facilities and features to make the City's parks safe, enjoyable and peaceful.

Using innovative global positioning systems and geographical information system technology, enabled the several steps normally needed to be combined to be narrowed down to just a few. The project included 108 parks, 31 school grounds, 61 walkways, 3 cemeteries and the river valley. It counted "hard features" like benches, play units, lights, and "soft features" like trees, bushes and shrubs.



The inventory system is the first step in aligning our parks system to better manage its assets so they can continue to provide the high level of service enjoyed by the community. Identifying current gaps in the assets will allow a prioritized and focused approach to filling the deficiencies.

This project falls within a City-wide initiative called the Community Asset Management Program (CAMP). CAMP defines effective community assets as "... knowing what we own, where it is located, its current condition and value, how it functions, and how much it will cost to maintain or replace in the future". This first step positions Parks to be able to manage parks and open space assets more progressively.



# Highlights and Achievements

## PUBLIC OPERATIONS

Henderson Lake has evolved into a state where water quality is not appropriate for recreational use. In an effort to improve water quality, four approaches to managing the lake water were implemented in 2006;

- 1) Water was drained and added to the lake to the extent allowed by the City's water license from St. Mary's Irrigation District. In 2006 138,286,000 gallons of water was added to freshen the lake water.
- 2) SolarBees were tried on a trial basis to circulate the water vertically in order to eliminate water separation caused by temperature differences and eliminate the oxygen depletion near the bottom of the lake.
- 3) Weeds were cut and removed to provide immediate impact and prevent the plant material from contributing to the buildup of decaying organic matter in the lake.
- 4) Weeds were treated with herbicide on an as need basis to reduce the negative impact they have on the lake.

The water quality of the lake remained usable for most of the summer despite the sunny and calm summer weather that created ideal conditions for algae and weed growth.

At Right an interesting photo of the Lethbridge skyline during one of our thunderstorms. The lightning from these storms damaged trees while heavy rains washed out shale pathways.

Once the spring high water flows dissipate, it leaves behind a large volume of silt that makes a mess of the boat launches along the Oldman River. In 2006, the amount of silt left behind was considerable and it required heavy equipment to clear. The City of Lethbridge recognizes its obligation to protect the environment and has implemented policies and procedures that govern these operations.



# Highlights and Achievements

## PUBLIC OPERATIONS



Landscape enhancement programs throughout the City provide for regular maintenance of shrubs and landscape plantings. Mulching of significant and highly visible amenities provide many esthetically pleasing views. The grounds at City Hall are one of the best maintained landscape areas within the City.



Arbor Day Tree planting: The Mayor and students from General Stewart School planted trees in Henderson Lake Park. This program is financed by the Val Matteotti family and has been in place for over 15 years.



The Civic Athletic Field was host to the 2006 Summer Games and all the usual track and field events that go on each year. Parks employees setup and line the various events on the inside track area.



Dog bag dispensers located throughout the City provide a valued service for both dog owners and non-dog owners. A commitment to the dispensers helps keep our parks clean. Lethbridge has a very good reputation for the style and quality of the bags and dispensers. In 2007, the City will be using a bag that is friendlier to the environment. Dedication by city employees, businesses and volunteers, has made this long running program the success it is.

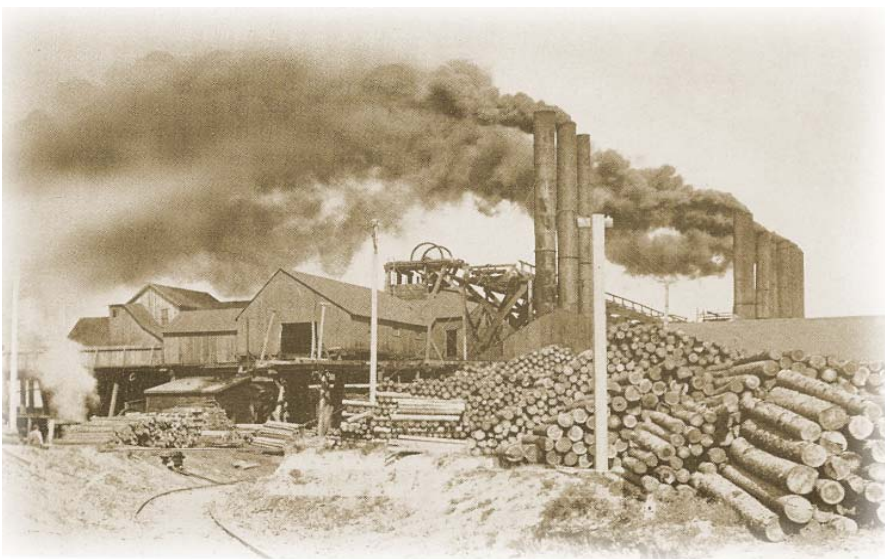


# Highlights and Achievements

The bald-faced hornets (larger than a yellow jacket) are best known for their large gray football-shaped nests. The paper-like covering of the nest is made from chewed up wood, cardboard or paper that the workers will form into the outside nest covering. Nests can also be colorful, as wasps will gather nest materials from different sources. The wasps build their nests in spring for raising their young. They are extremely protective of their nests and will sting repeatedly if disturbed.

This nest was found in a tree located in a city park. The nest was quite large (approximately 26 cm. X 56 cm.) and had a large rock built into the outside wall, probably the result of someone throwing a rock at it. The Parks Department removed the nest, making the park safe again.

One of the newest equipment additions to the Parks Department is a trailer mounted high pressure sprayer washer. Its mobility is an asset in the removal of graffiti throughout the parks system. It is also used to clean many types of park amenities.



No. 3 Mine, Starbuckville



# Highlights and Achievements

## REAL ESTATE AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

### RESIDENTIAL



One of the City of Lethbridge's most popular residential subdivision developments, RiverStone, continues to roll along with strong sales in 2006. A total of 90 lots in Phase-9 were released and immediately sold out in August. The completion of this phase brings the total of developed lots in RiverStone to 585 since the subdivision was started in 2000. Work also continued on the William Pearce Park and Rivermont Park areas.



Looking forward, 2007 will see the release of Phase 10 consisting of 57 lots. This phase will also host the 2008 STARS Lottery Home. Dependent on market conditions, Real Estate and Land Development foresees the release of Phases-11 and 12 in 2008.



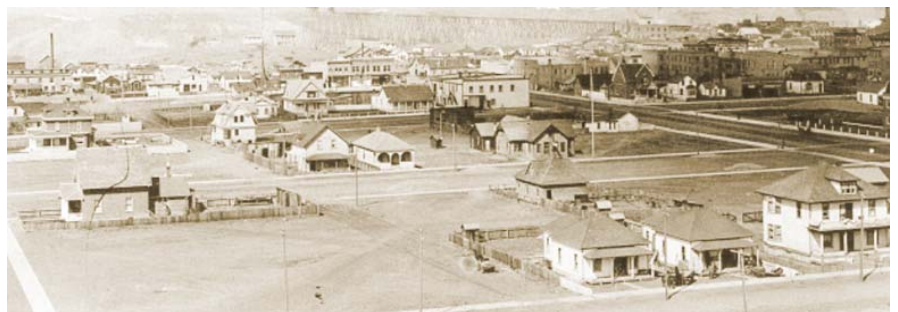
On October 12, 2006, the City of Lethbridge celebrated its official opening of the SunRidge Community. Representatives from City Council, City Administration, EnerVision, Canadian Home Builders Association - Lethbridge Region and three special guests from the Canadian Senate: Senator Joyce Fairburn, Senator Dan Hays and Senator Tommy Banks were in attendance.

A special award was presented to Ms. Sue Yee who was the first resident in the neighbourhood to have a house built to the BuiltGreen, Gold Standard. Her home builder was Cedar Ridge Homes.

The demonstration homes have generated a lot of interest, both locally and nationally. One of our demonstration home builders, Cedar Ridge Homes, was honoured with a national award from the Canadian Home Builders Association for energy efficiency.



Phase-1A, south of the major pond and open space site comprising 57 lots, was made available for sale in August 2006 and subsequently sold out. In 2007 it is anticipated that the 58 lot Phase-1B will be released for sale. This phase will have the demonstration home builders preparing more homes for the "Parade of Homes" scheduled for the spring of 2007.



# Highlights and Achievements



In 2006, the Benton Crossing Outline Plan and development funding were approved by the Municipal Planning Commission and City Council. Covering an area of more than 250 acres, Benton Crossing will be the home of a public senior high school and a separate combined junior/senior high school. These will be combined with a new public library.

With preliminary site work on Phase-1 scheduled to begin in the spring of 2007, the Plan envisages a community that comprises residential, including seniors accommodation, a variety of commercial uses, institutional sites and a major village square.

## INDUSTRIAL



Servicing work continued throughout most of 2006 for the Sherring Business and Industrial Park, the City's newest business/industrial area. Engineering consultants and the contractor were kept very busy designing and installing kilometres of underground utilities and pavement.

Following a major sale of 35 acres in the Sherring Park, development began on the construction of a Wal-Mart Mega Store. Opening of this store is anticipated in the latter part of 2007.



# Highlights and Achievements

## INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### Waste and Recycling

For Waste and Recycling, 2006 was highlighted by the successful implementation of phase one of the automated residential waste collection program for Lethbridge. City of Lethbridge crews delivered automated waste carts to over 15,000 homes with the assistance of The Rehabilitation Society of Lethbridge.

The deliveries commenced on June 19 and over 13,000 of the carts were delivered by July 14. An ergonomic study was completed in 2004 and the automation of manual collection was recommended to reduce the rate of injuries and wear and tear experienced by collectors handling 20,000 lbs of refuse on an average day. The program has been well received by both residents and collectors and has met the objectives of creating a cleaner community and a safer working environment for our employees.

Waste & Recycling Services promotes sustainability in the community. Although grass recycling and composting programs in the city have been successful, it was believed that even higher rates of organics diversion were possible. In the spring of 2006, the city piloted its first grass drop-off site. This site was so well received that the pilot was expanded in the fall of 2006 to include leaves and other yard waste, and two more sites were erected.

This pilot was made successful through the collaboration of Community Services which provided site locations, Waste & Recycling Services which installed and operated the sites, and the Parks Department which composted the material. Through this collaboration, it is estimated that 110,000 kilograms of yard waste was collected for composting.

Depots within the City of Lethbridge handle newspaper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass and are located at the seven locations.

Providing opportunities for Lethbridge residents to safely dispose of household hazardous waste and e-waste, Toxic/EWaste Round-ups are held seven times a year between April and October.



# Highlights and Achievements

## New Southeast Reservoir

Construction of the new water storage reservoir and pump station in Southeast Lethbridge was started in the spring of 2006. The \$8.5 million project will improve delivery pressures and fire protection in existing and new neighbourhoods in the area. The underground concrete structure will be capable of storing up to 24 million litres of potable water. Completion is scheduled for April 2007.

## Backup Power Project – West Lethbridge Reservoir

The upgrade to the existing West reservoir and pump station included the replacement of aging motor controls and the addition of a 750 kilowatt diesel generator. The \$1 million project increases the ability to deliver water to the community during power failures.

## Watermain Renewals and Looping Projects

In 2006, about 1,750 metres of aging watermain were replaced as part of the annual program. Nearly 1,000 metres of new pipes (looping) were also added to enhance the ability of the system to provide fire protection and to accommodate future growth.

## Fine Bubble Aeration Project – Wastewater Treatment Plant

The first phase of this project included the replacement of three old 900 kilowatt blowers with higher efficiency models of the same size. Benefits of the \$3.6 million project include reduced power consumption, lower maintenance costs and increased plant capacity. New air diffusers to deliver smaller (fine) bubbles will be installed into the plant bioreactors in 2007 to further improve the system efficiency.



# Highlights and Achievements



## 2006 - Pathway Rehabilitation Program

The 2006, the Pathway Maintenance Program involved the rehabilitation of approximately 8 kilometers of the City of Lethbridge's asphalt and shale pathway networks. As well, in 2006, the City of Lethbridge continued to build an inventory system that, upon completion, will be used to analyze and assess the condition of the 130 kilometers of pathways that exist within the city. The city spends \$175,000 annually on pathway maintenance.



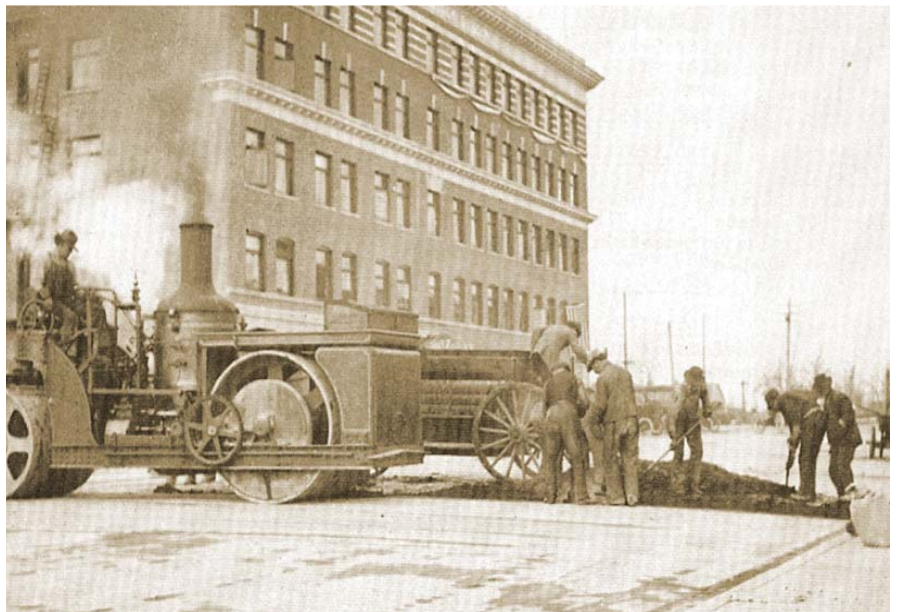
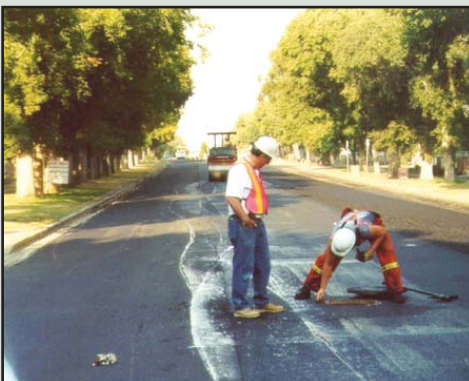
## 2006 Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program

The 2006, the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program consisted of the replacement of approximately 3.2 kilometers of sidewalk, the replacement and new installation of approximately 70 wheelchair accessibility ramps and the grinding of potential "tripping" hazards in over 4,000 locations. The locations for major sidewalk replacements can be found in the city's annual "What's in the Works" map. The City of Lethbridge performs a condition assessment on approximately one-fifth of its sidewalk system annually through the use of a sidewalk inventory system.



## 2006 Overlay Program

The 2006, the Asphalt Overlay Program involved the pavement rehabilitation of selected arterial, collector and local roadways throughout the city. This Overlay Program rehabilitates approximately 5% of the city's total roadway network annually. As well, preventative maintenance testing is performed on one-third of the city's entire roadwork annually.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Arterial Landscaping

### Whoop-up Drive Extension

The landscape construction for Whoop-Up Drive was from the intersection of Jerry Potts Boulevard West/McMaster Boulevard West to the lands west of Benton Drive and cost \$465,912.

The landscape design was developed in consultation with area residents to provide information on the design and construction time frame for the project and to collect input from the area residents.

### Mayor Magrath Drive South of Scenic

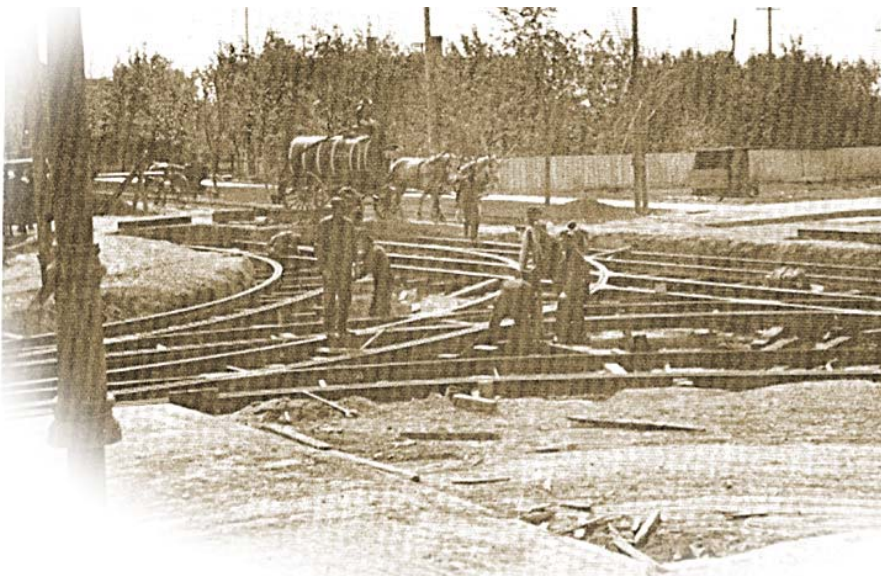
This landscape construction of the Mayor Magrath Drive Improvements project was from Scenic Drive to 40th Avenue South for a cost of \$655,350.

The landscape design was developed in consultation with the community, adjacent businesses, a consultant and city staff.

### University Drive Improvements

This project was improvements to University Drive between Macleod/RiverStone Boulevard and Whoop-Up Drive to improve existing and future traffic congestion and delays from growth at the University and the residential development that is taking place at the south end of West Lethbridge.

City Council on February 6, 2006, approved engineering services and on June 12, 2006 approved the construction of this section of roadway for a total cost of \$9,250,000. Improvements included a new water line, upgraded storm system, new signal lights, additional lanes, slotted lefts, dual left turns into the University, dual left turns onto University Drive from Columbia and dual off ramps from University Drive to Whoop Up Drive to improve capacity.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Sustainable development envisions balancing progress in three areas: social equity (seeking a high quality of life for all residents), economic vitality (building a vital economy based on local strengths) and ecological integrity and environmental quality (maintaining the ability of ecological processes to function over time by minimizing excess waste, preventing pollution and promoting energy efficiency).

### Environment Week 2006

The week began with the "Web of Life" nature walk at the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre on Sunday afternoon. Participants learned how energy is transformed and conserved in nature.

On Monday, individuals saw how waste is reused to create energy at the Waste Water Treatment and Cogeneration Facility. Participants also had the opportunity to test water from the Oldman River at this site.

That evening was a screening of the film Baraka and a presentation on the Ecological Footprint at the Lethbridge Public Library Theatre Gallery. On Wednesday, public transit was free all day to celebrate clean air day and to promote the Commuter Challenge. The Commuter Challenge is a community event where individuals and organizations use active transportation to travel around the city. By using sustainable modes of transportation, Canadians can help reduce air emissions and greenhouse gases, help create cleaner, healthier communities and help build active, healthy lifestyles.

The final event was a coulee clean-up in the nature reserve at the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre. This year, Alberta Environment donated 300 white spruce seedlings that were given out at the various activities.

### Bright Ideas Campaign

Environmental services hold a compact fluorescent light bulb campaign. 900 light bulbs were distributed throughout the community along with a program to educate people about energy efficiency.

The University of Lethbridge Environmental Club organized a Bridge Day at the University to connect people and organizations in the community who are working to promote environmental awareness. Environmental Services hosted a booth with the Bright Ideas campaign – giving out compact fluorescent lightbulbs to students who filled out an energy survey.



# Highlights and Achievements

## Lethbridge Home and Garden Show

The Lethbridge Environment Week Committee with Environmental Services hosted an educational display at this year's Home & Garden trade show. Visitors learned about water systems, energy efficiency and lots of other important ways to help the environment.

## Ecological Footprint

The Ecological Footprint measures human demand on nature. People depend on nature for food, energy, fiber, the absorption of waste products and other basic requirements for life. In order to live, people consume what nature provides. While every action impacts the planet's ecosystems, it is of little concern as long as human use of resources does not exceed what Earth can renew. Lethbridge held the 12 Days of Green campaign, the days between December 1st and 14th.

## The Stop Shop for Buy Nothing Day

In collaboration with the Lethbridge Public Interest Research Group, a free store called the "STOP SHOP" was set up in the University of Lethbridge atrium on November 24th and 25th to celebrate "Buy Nothing Day". The shop was a portable "store" filled with gently used items that could be swapped, borrowed or taken without the use of money. The purpose of the STOP SHOP was to promote alternatives to monetary based consumption in a fun and educational way.

## International Car Free Day

Car Free Day is an opportunity for Canadians to take personal, positive and constructive measures to reduce greenhouse gases in their community. To begin the process of establishing the link between fossil-fueled car, the deteriorating quality of our air and the related health problems associated with them.

A critical mass is a bike ride that takes place in many urban centers on the last Friday of every month. It is not a demonstration, simply a group of people who decide to ride around town in the same direction. If there are enough cyclists on the ride then it will go 'critical' - a mass of cyclists that can take over a road and ride together in safety. Anyone with self propelled transportation - cyclists, skateboarders, rollerbladers, and roller-skaters... can participate. In Lethbridge, it started at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and took about 1 hour to complete.

## Enviroscope

The Enviroscope newsletter aims to increase environmental awareness and community involvement, and is now being produced quarterly.



ENVIROSCOPE



# Highlights and Achievements

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### International Study Shows Lethbridge Is A Very Attractive Location For Business

KPMG's 2006 Competitive Alternatives Study ranks Lethbridge 10th, among the 128 cities, as the most cost-effective location in which to do business. This report continues to reinforce the idea that Lethbridge is a very attractive location in which to invest and do business.

Other highlights of the study indicate that Lethbridge offers lower overall costs than the majority of Canadian cities, including Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Lethbridge also boasts an 8.7 percent cost advantage relative to the United States.

KPMG's bi-annual Competitive Alternatives Study measures 27 key cost components including: labour, benefits, business facilities, taxes and utilities, as applied to business operations in industrialized countries. The 2006 edition of the study includes a comprehensive analysis of 128 cities in nine countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States. The study's basis for comparison is the after-tax cost of startup and operation for 17 different types of business, over a 10-year planning horizon.

This publication is significant because it raises the profile of Lethbridge and places us on the radar of many important business executives and site locators.

### Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership

The City of Lethbridge, through its support of Economic Development Lethbridge and SouthGrow Regional Initiative, is continuing to work with the region to pursue opportunities that will accelerate and enhance economic development and sustainability. In 2006, the Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP) was formed to promote this region as a leader in alternative energy production and manufacturing. The SAAEP is a partnership between Economic Development Lethbridge, SouthGrow Regional Initiative and Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance.

Together, this partnership represents 37 municipalities in the south central region of the province. Based on our available natural resources, existing expertise and established developments, the initiative will focus on the sustainable development of solar, wind and bio-energy (bio-diesel, ethanol and bio-mass) systems. The goal of this initiative is to build rural sustainability, build on our natural resources and attract investment to the region. Though still in its early stages, the initiative has already drawn strong support from both agricultural producers and businesses that recognize the benefits of this regional strategy.



# Audit Committee

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Lethbridge City Council is responsible for ensuring that City Administration fulfils its responsibilities for financial reporting, internal control and risk management. To assist City Council with these responsibilities, a City Council appointed Audit Committee has been established, primarily to:

- Monitor the Internal Controls over Financial Reporting (ICFR) including the policies, procedures and internal control mechanisms in place to ensure the accuracy, completeness and timely preparation of the City's financial reports and financial statements
- Monitor the independence and performance of the Auditors
- Provide an avenue of communication among City Council, Administration and the Auditors
- Identify and monitor the principal risks that could impact financial reporting of the City
- Oversee risk management including risk identification, analysis and managements procedures to minimize the City's exposure to loss

The City's Audit Committee oversees the activities of the external auditors to help ensure Administration's accountability to Council. The Audit Committee reviews the audit plan, year-end audit results, summary of audit differences, the Auditor's report and the management letter. To fulfil the City's provincially legislated audit requirements, the Committee engaged the external auditor, KPMG <sub>LLP</sub> who carried out the audit of the City of Lethbridge's financial statements, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The external auditors have full and unrestricted access to the Audit Committee to discuss their audit and related findings, as to the integrity of the City's financial statements and related processes.

Other key activities completed by the Audit Committee during the year included:

- Considered internal controls and financial risks facing the City, including information technology systems
- Reviewed annual financial statements, discussed these with Administration and Auditors and recommended approval to City Council
- Discussed the appropriateness of accounting principles, critical accounting policies and management judgments and estimates
- Reviewed legal matters with the City Solicitor
- Reviewed financial personnel succession planning
- Participated in education sessions related to Governance and Control in the Public Sector, the impact of Sarbanes Oxley and internal controls over financial reporting
- Discussed upcoming accounting regulation changes and how they will affect future financial reporting

The Audit Committee membership consists of the Mayor and three Council members (and an alternate).

The Audit Committee maintains formal, comprehensive Terms of Reference which it reviews, at a minimum, in April in the year of a municipal election to ensure they reflect best governance practices.



Leslie Vaala  
Alderman  
Chairman, Audit Committee  
March 22, 2007

# *Report from the Chief Financial Officer*

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**For the Year Ended December 31, 2006**

## **His Worship, Mayor R. D. Tarleck And Members of Council of the City of Lethbridge**

The City of Lethbridge's 2006 Annual Report provides information to taxpayers and other members of the public about the City's 2006 financial performance. In addition, this report describes some of the City's major financial policies, provides an assessment of the City's general economic condition and highlights some of our accomplishments.

### **MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The financial statements of the City of Lethbridge and all other information contained in the annual report are prepared and presented by management, which is responsible for their accuracy, objectivity and completeness. The responsibility includes presenting the statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for local governments and in conformance to the requirements of the Municipal Government Act of the Province of Alberta. The preparation of the statements necessarily involves the use of estimates, which are made using careful judgment.

Management is responsible for maintaining a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the reliability of financial information and the safeguarding of assets.

City Council has the ultimate responsibility for these financial statements. City Council oversees management's responsibilities for financial reporting through an Audit Committee, which is composed of the Mayor, and four aldermen, one of whom acts as an alternate. The Audit Committee reviews the financial statements and recommends them to City Council for approval.

To carry out its duties, the Audit Committee reviews the annual financial statements, as well as issues related to them. The Audit Committee also assesses the effectiveness of internal controls over the accounting and financial reporting systems. The Audit Committee's review of financial reports includes an assessment of key management estimates and judgments material to the financial results.

KPMG<sub>LLP</sub>, the external auditor appointed by City Council has audited our financial statements. They have full unrestricted access to the Audit Committee to discuss their findings, including the fairness of financial reporting and the adequacy of internal controls.

## OPERATING RESULTS

December 31, 2006, marks the end of the first year of the City of Lethbridge's three year budget cycle (for the years 2006 to 2008). To accommodate the three year budget cycle, Business Units are expected to operate within their approved 36 month budget. As reflected in the Summary of Fiscal Principles, Practices and Policies, if there is a shortfall in the first year, Business Units are expected to overcome the deficit by adjusting expenditures in the following years (2007-2008); and if the first year experience resulted in a net surplus, the Business Units have the ability to carry over the surplus to assist their operations in the next twenty-four months. As part of this model, any corporate surplus from 2006 is transferred to the Municipal Revenue Stabilization Reserve (MRSR).

The results for year one are extremely pleasing. The General Fund generated a 2006 Corporate surplus of \$2.4 million (2005 - \$1.6 million). The largest contribution to this surplus was higher than budgeted property taxes, revenues from construction permits and development fees, and lower than anticipated costs for employee benefits. This surplus will be transferred to the MRSR. The net carry forward (to 2007-2008) for the General Fund Business units equals \$1,860,000 (or approximately 2% of the 2006 budget).

For 2006, the Utility Fund experienced a surplus of \$ 826,000 (2005 - \$921,000). This surplus was primarily attributable to the Water Utility operations - mainly due to greater than anticipated water revenues resulting from the unusually dry summer. The \$1 million in Water Utility surpluses was tempered by a \$500,000 deficit in the Electric Utility - due mainly to higher than anticipated energy procurement costs for Regulated Rate Option customers.

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

During 2006, \$77.2 million (2005, \$55.0 million) was expended on capital. A summary of the most significant expenditures is as follows:

Subdivision development		17,623,500
Sherring Business and Industrial Park	9,077,000	
Residential Subdivisions (Copperwood, SunRidge, RiverStone)	8,546,500	
Electric capital projects		9,360,500
University Drive, Whoop-Up Drive to McGill Blvd		6,851,700
Southeast water reservoir		5,968,500
Vehicle and equipment purchases		3,180,000
Transit buses		3,008,700
Regional Wellness Center		3,100,000
Sanitary sewer relief lines		2,694,200
Galt Museum expansion		2,082,800
Arterial and street upgrading program		2,048,000
Waste Water Treatment Plant Fine Bubble Aeration		1,877,300
Landfill cell development		1,317,000
Project Clearview - Management Information System		1,127,100
Northside Transit Mini Terminal		1,090,700
Watermain renewal program		1,051,100
Sidewalk renewal & boulevard construction program		901,100
Back up power west Lethbridge reservoir		894,200

As shown above, the top four projects represent 50% of the overall capital program, with the largest expenditure area being subdivision development (\$17.6 million); Sherring Business and Industrial Park of \$9.1 million and Copperwood/SunRidge/RiverStone residential development of \$8.5 million.

In the 1970's and 1980's, the City of Lethbridge invested heavily in infrastructure and community service projects to support the expected expansion of future growth areas. Strategic investment from the previous decades has allowed this growth to occur without a corresponding investment in additional infrastructure. However, capacity thresholds are being approached in a number of our systems. The City is now embarking on another strategic investment program to again ensure that infrastructure and community service projects are available for new residents and businesses (eg. the Southeast Water reservoir project). In 2004, after several months of consultation with homebuilders and the development industry, the City revised its offsite levy by-law to include a transportation component of \$61,000/hectare (which is being phased in over 3 years 2005-2007). This will allow several important transportation projects to proceed in a timely manner (eg. the University Drive widening project was advanced to 2006).

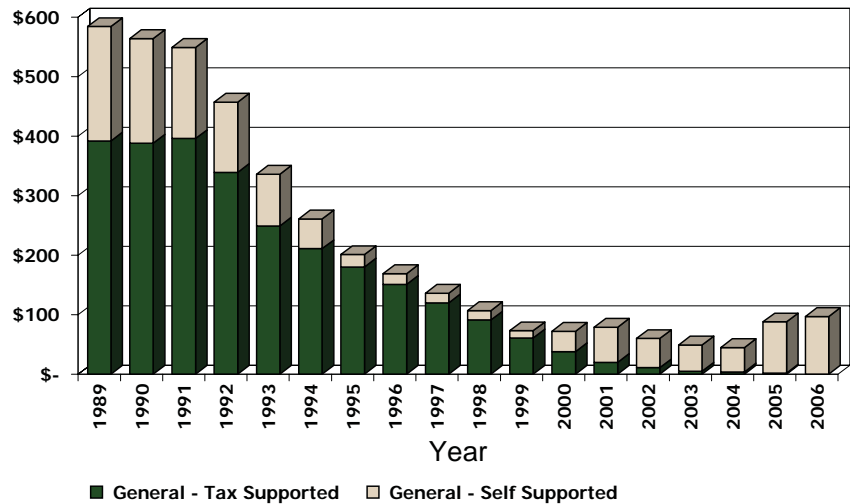
## FINANCIAL POLICIES

Lethbridge has a proven track record of prudent, yet innovative financial management. Over the past few years Council has adopted several long-term financial policies necessary to ensure that the City of Lethbridge continues to offer an attractive tax and utility rate environment to businesses and our citizens. These policies have been included in a compendium document called " Summary of Fiscal Principles, Practices, and Policies".

### Debt Management/Pay-As-You-Go

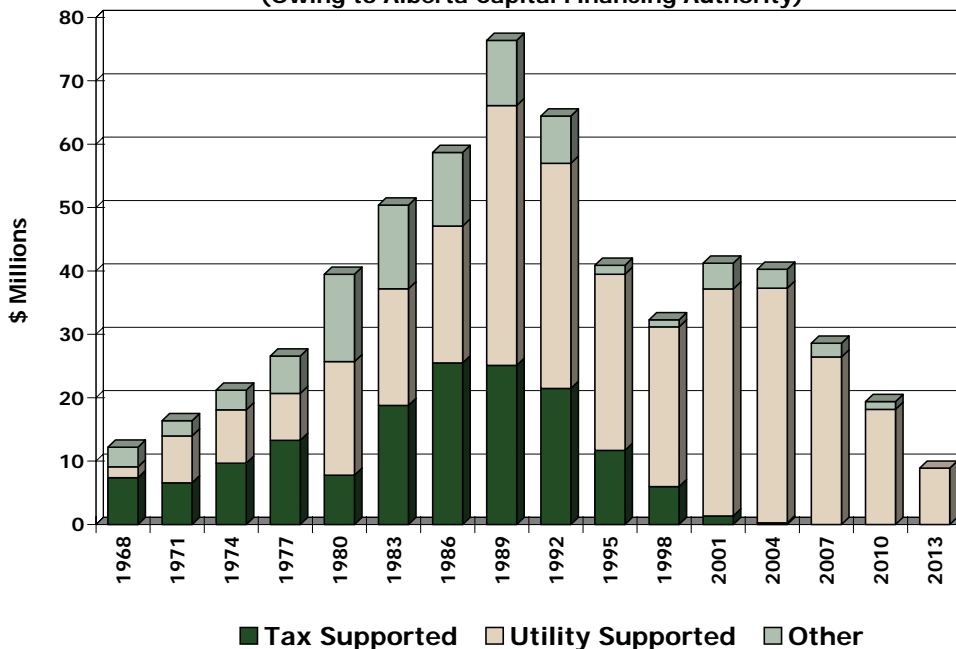
During the period of high growth/investment in the late 1970's and 1980's, the City borrowed extensively to fund these capital costs. Our debt peaked in 1989 at a level of \$76.9 million. In 1989, City Council adopted a policy of Pay-As-You-Go financing for general municipal (non-utility) capital expenditures. A complementary policy was that of utilizing City reserves to internally finance larger capital works. Since these policies were introduced, no additional tax supported debentures have been issued, and Lethbridge became free of its tax supported debt by May 2006.

**Debt per Capita  
General Fund**



Under this program, the level of capital expenditure is controlled; however, because maintenance is recognized as a high priority, the City's existing infrastructure and facilities are not being compromised. During this time frame, the City has also completed some significant capital projects including a new City Hall, a new Police Station, Indoor Soccer Complex, Museum Expansion Cogeneration facility at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, replacement of the river valley Electrical Substation, and several significant roadway improvements, including Mayor Magrath Drive and University Drive widening.

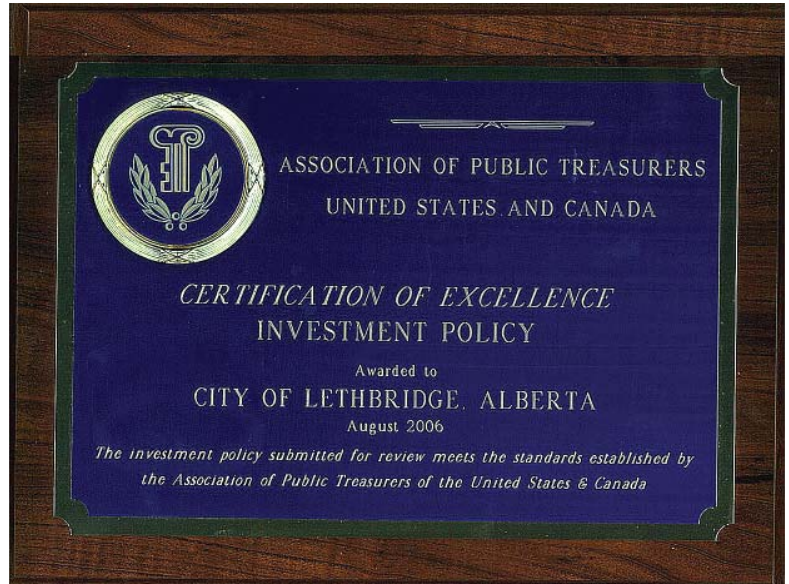
**Total Debt  
(Owing to Alberta Capital Financing Authority)**



## INVESTMENT POLICY

The City of Lethbridge's investment policy was recently recertified by the Association of Public Treasurers of United States and Canada. Our investment policy provides direction on all investment matters with overall objectives of safety, liquidity, return on investment, and maintaining public trust.

The City of Lethbridge maintains a significant investment portfolio. The size of this portfolio fluctuates from year to year depending on requirements for internal financing for capital projects. Nevertheless, it represents a significant source of capital for City investment income. All investment income is credited to the Municipal Revenue Stabilization Reserve, which is used to stabilize the effects of fluctuating investment revenues on the operating budget.

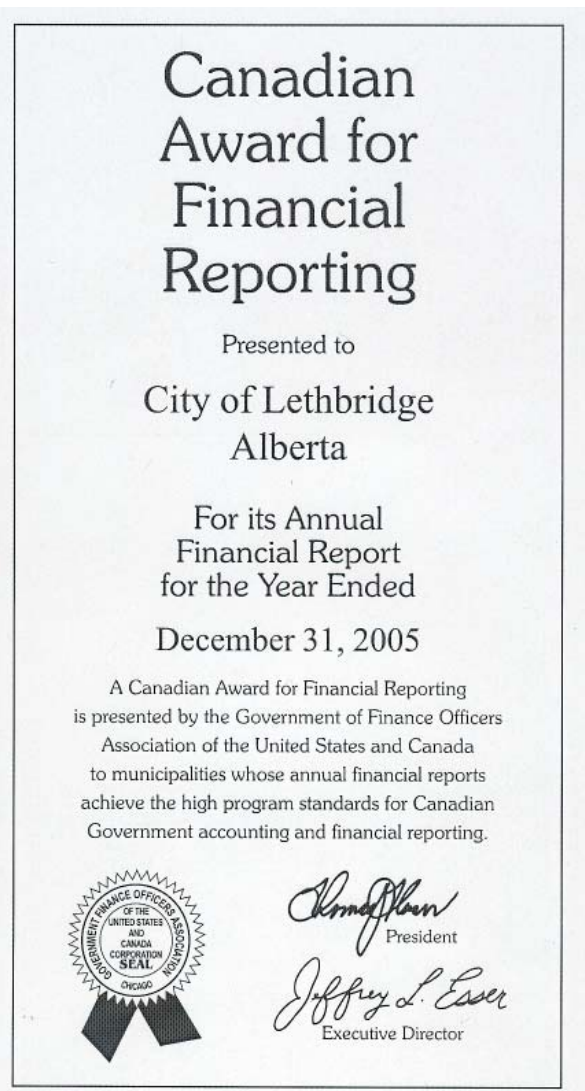


## CANADIAN AWARD FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

For the tenth consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada presented the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting to the City of Lethbridge for its annual financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005. The Canadian Award for Financial Reporting program was established to encourage municipal governments throughout Canada to publish high quality financial reports and to provide peer recognition and technical guidance for officials preparing these reports.

In order to receive a Canadian Award for Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such reports go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles and demonstrate an effort to clearly communicate the municipal government's financial picture, enhance an understanding of financial reporting by municipal governments, and address user needs.

The Canadian Award for Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting program requirements. As part of our continuing effort to achieve reporting excellence, we will submit this 2006 financial report to the GFOA for review.



## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Strong industrial and commercial growth continues to support growth in the residential sector, as people come to the city to work and stay to enjoy the quality of life in Lethbridge. In 2006, the total value of building permits issued by the City grew from \$182 million to \$207 million, up 14% over 2005.

This rise in the value of building permits is a demonstration of the sustainable vitality of this community. It means we are achieving our goal of building a development friendly city, while continuing to maintain our quality of life valued by our residents. The whole of the development and construction industry is inter-related, each contributing to a healthy community and a healthy economy. Employment opportunities provided by new industry and construction, supports the demand for services and the housing market. The dollar value of these building permits is an indicator of the city's success in attracting its share of the economic boom experience by the Province as a whole.

In 2006, 1,597 permits were issued with a total value of just under \$112 million for residential construction. The residential real estate sector saw the average price of homes increase to \$200,800 and an increase of 10% in the number of homes sold. As well, Lethbridge had continued growth in the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors with 189 permits issued for these sectors and a construction value of over \$95 million.

The regional unemployment rate continued to be very low with December 2006 at 3.2%; well below the national average of 6.1%. Vacancy rates in 2006 tighten by 2.1 percentage points, down from 2.7% in 2005 to .06% in 2006.

## CONCLUSION

The results of our first year of the 2006-2008 budget cycle are very pleasing. The Business Units performed very responsibly and are the reason for our success. In addition to the financial results, the Corporation was able to redirect significant hours of preparation, study and debate of the budget to completing some of City Council's priorities and strategic goals.

The City's strong financial position is a reflection of Council's commitment to the prudent, yet innovative long term financial policies that have served us so well. As we look to the future, it is essential that we do not rest on our past accomplishments. Instead, we must continue to be innovative in balancing long-term fiscal responsibility with customer needs.

The issues of "infrastructure deficit" and "municipal sustainability" are recognized by all levels of government as significant issues for Canadian municipalities. The federal government through changes to its GST rebate program and the New Deal for Canadian Cities (gas tax revenue sharing program and the special transit grant) has committed to long-term, predictable funding for municipalities. In addition, the City of Lethbridge continues to benefit from the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program Grant. These new long term funding relationships with the Federal and Provincial governments along with City Council's commitment to strategic infrastructure investment will be of great value in helping the City of Lethbridge address its infrastructure deficit and deal with the pressures of a growing community.

In closing, I am confident the City of Lethbridge is well positioned to face any challenge, make the most of its opportunities, preserve its outstanding quality of life, and generally demonstrate that Lethbridge is **THE** place to live and do business.

Respectfully submitted,



Garth Sherwin, CA  
Chief Financial Officer  
March 22, 2007



The Alberta Capital Finance Authority congratulates the City of Lethbridge on it's 100th Anniversary and repayment of the last three "tax supported" debentures on May 9, 2006.



**Canadian Award For Financial Reporting**

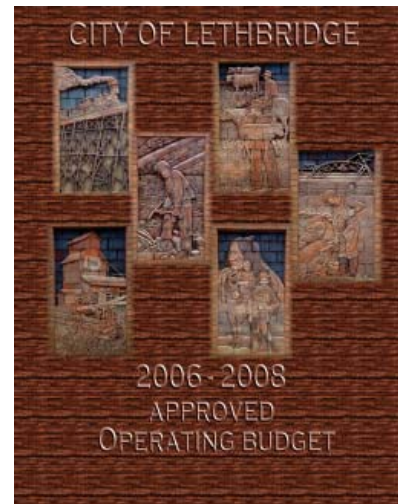
The City of Lethbridge received the 2006 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the Triennium beginning January 1, 2006.

This award is valid for three years, and reflects the commitment of City Council and administration to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In order to receive the budget award, four nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation must be satisfied. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget serves as:

- a policy document
- an operations guide
- a financial plan
- a communication device

This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement as budget documents must be rated "proficient " in all four categories to receive the award.



# Responsibility For Financial Reporting

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

The 2006 Annual Report of the City of Lethbridge, including the financial statements, is the responsibility of management. It has been approved by City Council.

The financial statements are prepared by management, using the accounting principles disclosed in the notes to these statements. They include some amounts that are based on the best estimates and judgements of management. Financial data elsewhere in the report is consistent with that in the financial statements.

To assist in its responsibility, management maintains accounting, budget and other controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are appropriately authorized, that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded, and that financial records are reliable for preparation of financial statements.

City Council fulfils its responsibility for financial reporting through its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee consists of the Mayor and four Aldermen, one of whom acts as an alternate, who meet to review financial controls and reporting matters.

KPMG<sub>LLP</sub> has been appointed by City Council to express an opinion on the City's consolidated financial statements. Their report follows.



Garth Sherwin, CA  
Director of Corporate Services  
and Chief Financial Officer  
March 22, 2007

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council of  
The City of Lethbridge

We have audited the consolidated balance sheet of the City of Lethbridge as at December 31, 2006 and the consolidated statements of revenues and expenditures and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the municipality's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the City of Lethbridge as at December 31, 2006 and the results of its financial activities and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Chartered Accountants  
Lethbridge, Canada  
March 22, 2007

# Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

	2006	2005
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents - Note 2	\$ 7,651	\$ 3,518
Investments - Note 3	119,173	102,197
Receivables - Note 4	23,511	21,589
Land held for resale	14,996	15,030
CentreSite investment - Note 5	7,132	7,359
Loans and advances	467	568
Other assets	1,323	883
	174,253	151,144
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities - Note 6	22,064	21,586
Employee benefit obligations - Note 7	9,260	8,628
Deferred revenue - Note 8	45,578	32,527
Due to CentreSite	377	377
Deposits and other liabilities	5,085	3,984
Agreements payable - Note 9	1,969	2,814
Debenture debt - Note 10	52,927	41,983
	137,260	111,899
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	36,993	39,245
<b>PHYSICAL ASSETS</b>		
Inventory held for consumption	5,137	4,022
Capital assets - Note 11	843,428	784,032
	848,565	788,054
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	\$ 885,558	\$ 827,299
<b>MUNICIPAL POSITION</b>		
Fund balances:		
Operating fund:		
Accumulated surplus - Note 13	\$ 3,702	\$ 3,127
Land held for resale	10,542	9,839
CentreSite investment	7,132	7,359
Unfunded vacation pay	(6,272)	(5,640)
Inventory held for consumption	(5,137)	(4,022)
	9,967	10,663
Capital fund - Exhibit 2	35,278	32,009
Reserves - Note 14	44,675	38,556
	89,920	81,228
Equity in physical assets		
Inventory held for consumption	5,137	4,022
Equity in capital assets	790,501	742,049
	795,638	746,071
<b>NET MUNICIPAL POSITION</b>	\$ 885,558	\$ 827,299

Commitments - Note 18

The accompanying notes and exhibits form an integral part of these Financial Statements

# Consolidated Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

		2006	Budget (Unaudited)	2005
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Net taxes	- Exhibit 7	\$ 61,463	\$ 60,943	\$ 54,916
Capital revenues	- Exhibit 2	23,034	23,034	13,599
Return on investments		3,185	3,480	3,383
Provincial unconditional transfers		2,447	1,119	2,447
Other		21,108	21,056	11,095
		111,237	109,632	85,440
<b>SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES</b>				
Electric		46,447	45,107	28,711
Water		16,797	15,023	15,065
Wastewater		13,239	12,757	11,421
Transportation services		13,015	12,285	11,545
Waste services		11,537	11,034	9,206
General government services		8,106	8,062	9,020
Protective services		8,226	7,023	7,679
Leisure and human services		7,834	6,755	7,314
Family support and social services		2,220	2,062	2,122
Development services		1,172	1,030	961
		128,593	121,138	103,044
		239,830	230,770	188,484
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Operating				
Protective services		39,029	39,284	35,281
Leisure and human services		22,950	22,081	20,295
Electric		36,357	34,013	15,519
Transportation services		18,453	18,452	16,095
General government services		12,141	14,301	10,954
Water		10,928	9,082	9,768
Waste services		10,934	10,485	8,015
Wastewater		8,131	6,863	6,599
Family support and social services		2,833	2,985	2,850
Development services		3,111	3,407	2,556
		164,867	160,953	127,932
Capital				
General		46,513	46,513	39,391
Utility		30,702	30,702	15,579
	- Exhibit 2	77,215	77,215	54,970
	- Note 16	242,082	238,168	182,902
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>				
Debtenture debt issued		16,041	16,041	6,990
Debtenture debt principal redeemed		(5,097)	(4,981)	(5,279)
Change in fund balances		8,692	3,662	7,293
Transfer from accumulated surplus		93	93	520
Transfers to reserves from operations		(14,215)	(7,844)	(21,912)
Transfers from accumulated surplus to operations		2,559	952	2,621
Transfers from reserves to capital		8,096	8,096	21,941
Change in capital fund		(3,269)	(4,174)	(8,028)
Change in inventory held for consumption		1,115	-	425
Change in other operating funds		156	-	(332)
<b>CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	- Note 12	\$ 3,227	\$ 785	\$ 2,528

The accompanying notes and exhibits form an integral part of these Financial Statements

# Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

	2006	2005
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN):</b>		
<b>Operations</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ (2,252)	\$ 5,582
Decrease (increase) in non-cash financial assets		
Receivables	(1,922)	(4,223)
Land held for resale	34	(695)
Loans and advances	101	(167)
Other assets	(440)	(252)
Increase (decrease) in non-cash liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	478	6,027
Employee benefit obligation	632	496
Deferred revenue	13,051	17,790
Due to centreSite	-	(39)
Deposits and other liabilities	1,101	(766)
	10,783	23,753
<b>Investing</b>		
Investments	(16,976)	(29,740)
CentreSite investment	227	16
	(16,749)	(29,724)
<b>Financing</b>		
Debenture debt issued	16,041	6,990
Debenture debt principal redeemed	(5,097)	(5,279)
Agreements payable	(845)	(957)
	10,099	754
Change in cash and cash equivalents	4,133	(5,217)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	3,518	8,735
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 7,651	\$ 3,518

- Note 2

The accompanying notes and exhibits form an integral part of these Financial Statements

# Consolidated Schedule of Operating Fund Activities

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 1

	2006	Budget (Unaudited)	2005
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Net taxes - Exhibit 7	\$ 61,463	\$ 60,943	\$ 54,916
Sale of land	18,086	18,086	8,163
Gas company franchise	2,582	2,551	2,476
Return on investments	3,185	3,480	3,383
Provincial unconditional transfers	2,447	1,119	2,447
Penalties and costs	373	361	404
Other	66	58	52
	88,202	86,598	71,841
<b>SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES</b>			
Electric	46,447	45,107	28,711
Water	16,797	15,023	15,065
Wastewater	13,239	12,757	11,421
Transportation services	13,015	12,285	11,545
Waste services	11,537	11,034	9,206
General government services	8,106	8,062	9,020
Protective services	8,226	7,023	7,679
Leisure and human services	7,834	6,755	7,314
Family support and social services	2,220	2,062	2,122
Development services	1,172	1,030	961
	128,593	121,138	103,044
	216,795	207,736	174,885
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Protective services	39,029	39,284	35,281
Leisure and human services	22,950	22,081	20,295
Transportation services	18,453	18,452	16,095
Electric	36,357	34,013	15,519
General government services	12,141	14,301	10,954
Water	10,928	9,082	9,768
Waste services	10,934	10,485	8,015
Wastewater	8,131	6,863	6,599
Family support and social services	2,833	2,985	2,850
Development services	3,111	3,407	2,556
	164,867	160,953	127,932
	- Note 16		
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	51,928	46,783	46,953
Net interfund transfers			
To capital fund	(33,433)	(34,218)	(20,716)
To reserves	(14,215)	(9,451)	(21,912)
Debenture debt principal redeemed	(4,976)	(4,981)	(5,031)
Change in fund balance	(696)	(1,867)	(706)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	3,127	3,127	3,740
Change in inventory held for consumption	1,115	-	425
Change in other operating funds	156	-	(332)
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR</b> - Note 13	\$ 3,702	\$ 1,260	\$ 3,127

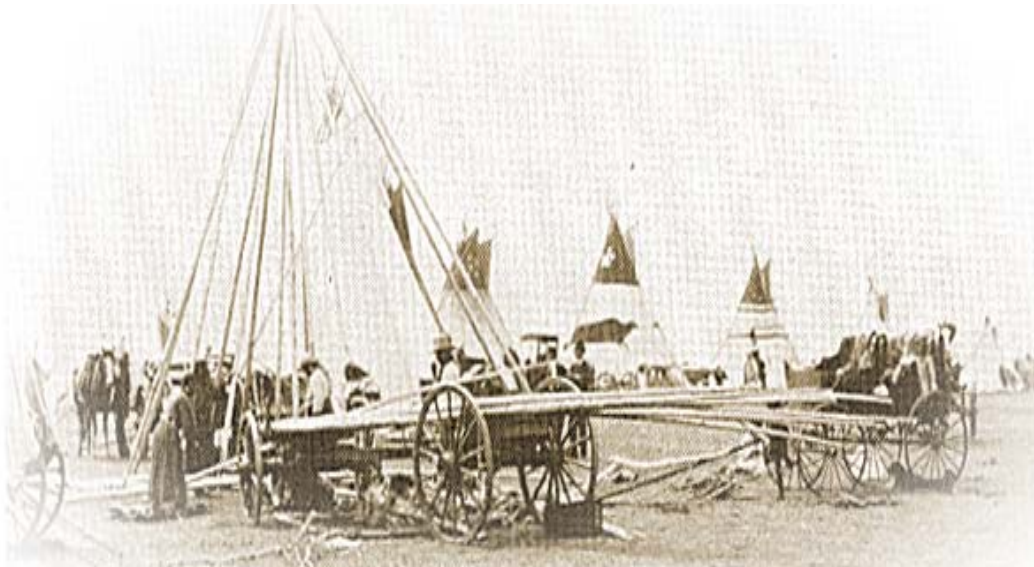
The accompanying notes and exhibits form an integral part of these Financial Statements

# Consolidated Schedule of Capital Fund Activities

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 2

	2006	Budget (Unaudited)	2005
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Provincial and federal transfers	\$ 12,795	\$ 12,795	\$ 6,192
Developer payments	6,504	6,504	3,782
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets	383	383	576
Other	3,352	3,352	3,049
	23,034	23,034	13,599
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Engineering structures	36,441	36,441	29,742
Buildings	7,266	7,266	6,099
Vehicles	5,946	5,946	5,616
Subdivision development	16,600	16,600	8,012
Machinery and equipment	3,815	3,815	1,281
Land	156	156	2,787
Other	6,991	6,991	1,433
- Note 16	77,215	77,215	54,970
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(54,181)</b>	<b>(54,181)</b>	<b>(41,371)</b>
Net interfund transfers			
From operating fund	33,433	34,218	20,716
From reserves	8,096	8,096	21,941
Debenture debt issued	16,041	16,041	6,990
Debenture debt principal redeemed	(120)	-	(248)
Change in fund balance	3,269	4,174	8,028
Balance, beginning of year	32,009	32,009	23,981
<b>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 35,278</b>	<b>\$ 36,183</b>	<b>\$ 32,009</b>



The accompanying notes and exhibits form an integral part of these Financial Statements

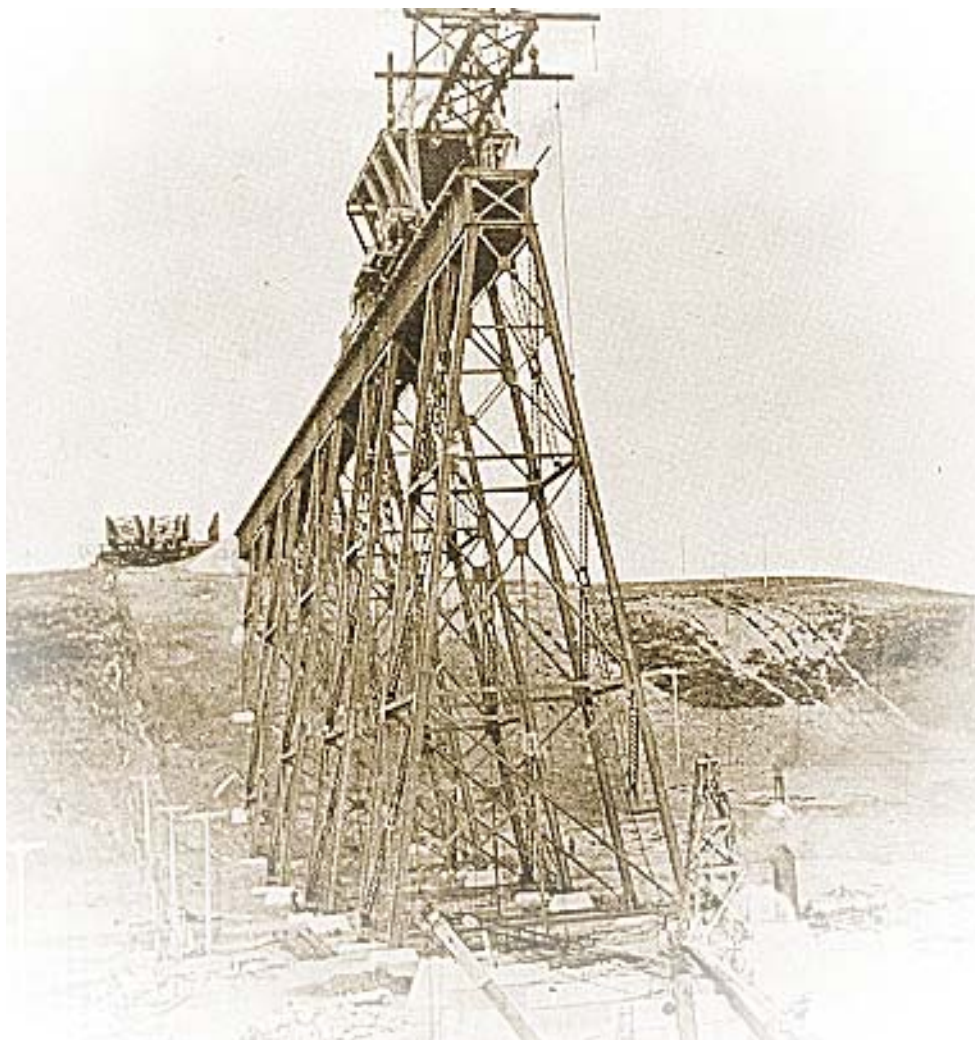
# Consolidated Schedule of Reserves

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 3

	2006	Budget (Unaudited)	2005
<b>BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 38,556	\$ 38,556	\$ 38,585
Changes in fund balance			
Net transfer from operating fund	14,215	9,451	21,912
Net transfer to capital fund	(8,096)	(8,096)	(21,941)
Change in fund balance	6,119	1,355	(29)
<b>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 44,675	\$ 39,911	\$ 38,556

- Note 14



The accompanying notes and exhibits form an integral part of these Financial Statements

# *Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements*

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The consolidated financial statements of the City of Lethbridge (the "City") are the representations of management prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the City are as follows:

### a. Reporting Entity -

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures, and changes in fund balances and in financial position of the reporting entity which comprises all the organizations and committees that are accountable to City Council for the administration of their financial affairs and resources and are owned or controlled by the City. Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances are eliminated.

The statement of taxes levied also includes requisitions collected on behalf of and transferred to education and other external organizations that are not part of the municipal reporting entity.

### b. Basis of Accounting -

Revenues are accounted for in the period in which the transactions or events occurred that gave rise to the revenues. Expenditures are recognized in the period the goods and services are acquired and a liability is incurred or transfers are due.

Funds from external parties and earnings thereon restricted by agreement or legislation are accounted for as deferred revenue until used for the purpose specified.

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenues in the period that the events giving rise to the transfer occurred, providing the transfers are authorized, the municipality has met any eligibility criteria, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made.

### c. Fund Accounting -

Municipal funds for both General and Utility Operations consist of the operating, capital and reserve funds. Transfers between funds are recorded as adjustments to the appropriate equity account. Proceeds from sales of land are recorded as operating fund revenues.

### d. Investments -

Investments are comprised of investments in qualifying institutions as defined in the City's investment policy and consist primarily of money market instruments such as bankers' acceptances, government bonds and commercial paper.

Long-term investments which are effectively held to maturity or which have a reduction in market value which is considered temporary in nature are recorded at cost. Investment premiums and discounts arising on the purchase of fixed term securities are amortized proportionately over the period to maturity.

### e. Inventories -

Inventories of materials and supplies are valued at the lower of cost or net realizable value with cost determined by the average cost method.

### f. Land Held for Resale -

Land held for resale is recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost includes cost for land acquisition and improvements required to prepare the land for servicing such as clearing, stripping and levelling charges. Related development costs incurred to provide infrastructure such as water and wastewater services, roads and street lighting are recorded as capital assets under their respective function.

### g. Capital Assets -

Capital assets are reported as expenditures in the period they are acquired. Capital assets are reported at cost.

In years prior to 1974 the acquisition costs of certain capital assets were not capitalized but the balance shown for capital assets represented expenditures financed by debenture borrowing less debenture principal repayments.

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Consequently, the balance shown for capital assets is a composite of two methods of recording asset additions.

Government contributions for the acquisition of capital assets are reported as capital revenue and do not reduce the related capital asset's cost.

### h. Depreciation -

The Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants has not established a depreciation policy for local governments, therefore the City has not established a policy for recording depreciation as an expenditure for General or Utility Fund operations, with the exception of the Electric Utility.

The Electric Utility depreciates its capital assets on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset	Years
Transmission	14-30
Distribution	18
General	12-14

### i. Equity in Capital Assets -

Equity in capital assets represents the City's net investment in its total capital assets, after deducting the portion financed by debentures.

### j. Employee Future Benefits -

The City is a member of defined benefit multi-employer and multiple employer pension plans covering substantially all of its employees. Pension contributions are accounted for using defined contribution accounting, wherein contributions for current and past service pension benefits are recorded as expenditures in the year in which they become due.

### k. Reserves -

Reserves are established at the discretion of City Council to set aside funds for future operating and capital expenditures.

### l. Use of Estimates -

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### m. Over-levies and Under-levies -

Over-levies and under-levies arise from the difference between the actual levy made to cover each requisition and the actual amount requisitioned.

If the actual levy exceeds the requisition, the over-levy is accrued as a liability and property tax revenue is reduced. Where the actual levy is less than the requisition amount, the under-levy is accrued as a receivable and as property tax revenue.

Requisition tax rates in the subsequent year are adjusted for any over-levies or under-levies of the prior year.

### n. Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Care -

The Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act sets out the regulatory requirements to properly close and maintain all active and inactive landfill sites. Under environmental law, there is a requirement for closure and post-closure care of solid waste landfill sites. This requirement is being provided for over the estimated remaining life of the landfill site based on usage (see note 6).

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2006		2005	
Cash	\$	5,172	\$	3,518
Investments with original maturities less than 3 months		2,479		-
	\$	7,651	\$	3,518

## 3. INVESTMENTS

	2006		2005	
	Cost	Market	Cost	Market
Short-term investments	\$ 53,447	\$ 53,448	\$ 51,400	\$ 51,440
Long-term investments	65,726	64,651	50,797	50,011
	\$ 119,173	\$ 118,099	\$ 102,197	\$ 101,451

Investments mature at various dates between July 10, 2007 and October 15, 2017 and have an average effective annual yield of 4.16% (2005 - 3.38%).

Investments include \$29,135 (2005 - \$17,459) in externally restricted amounts which must be used for specified capital projects.

## 4. RECEIVABLES

			Total	
	General	Utility	2006	2005
Trade	\$ 5,646	\$ 12,280	\$ 17,926	\$ 15,393
Other government	5,569	-	5,569	5,500
Taxes	1,569	-	1,569	1,668
	12,784	12,280	25,064	22,561
Allowance for doubtful amounts	1,134	419	1,553	972
	\$ 11,650	\$ 11,861	\$ 23,511	\$ 21,589

## 5. CENTRESITE INVESTMENT

CentreSite is a joint venture between the Province of Alberta and the City, which was formed to develop land acquired when the Canadian Pacific Railway yard was moved from the Lethbridge City centre. The operations of CentreSite currently include a long-term lease.

The investment in CentreSite is accounted for on the modified equity basis. Equity allocations or refunds, and net income or losses are allocated 60% to the Province of Alberta and 40% to the City.

	2006		2005	
Balance, beginning of year	\$	7,359	\$	7,375
City share of CentreSite net income		(25)		691
Equity Refund		(202)		(707)
	\$	7,132	\$	7,359

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	General		Utility		Total	
					2006	2005
Trade payables	\$ 10,913	\$ 5,473	\$ 16,386	\$ 17,325		
Accrued liabilities	3,857	742 <sup>(1)</sup>	4,599	3,042		
Other government	1,079	-	1,079	1,219		
	\$ 15,849	\$ 6,215	\$ 22,064	\$ 21,586		

(1) Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Liability

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities is \$742 (2005 - \$650) of estimated total landfill closure and post-closure care costs. The accrued liability is fully funded. The liability is recognized over the life of the landfill using the net present value of the total estimated costs of closure and post-closure care. These costs have been prorated on the basis of the current capacity in cubic meters utilized over the total estimated capacity of the site. The present value of the estimated closure and post-closure costs was discounted at the City's average long-term borrowing rate.

The remaining capacity of the approved phases is estimated at 3.4 (2005 - 3.7) million cubic meters which will be reached in approximately 20-22 years. Closure will involve covering the site with topsoil and vegetation, drainage control, and installing ground water monitoring wells. Post-closure care activities for phases currently under operation is expected to occur for 25 years and will involve surface and ground water monitoring, maintenance of drainage structures, monitoring leachate and landfill gas, and landfill cover maintenance.

The remaining closure costs and post-closure costs to be recognized have been estimated at \$788 (2005 - \$813). The following summarizes the total net present value of the estimated costs of closure and post-closure care:

	2006	2005
Estimated closure costs	\$ 855	\$ 833
Estimated post-closure costs	675	630
Total estimated costs	1,530	1,463
Amount accrued to December 31	(742)	(650)
Balance of estimated costs to accrue over the remaining life of the landfill	\$ 788	\$ 813

## 7. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

	General		Utility		2006		2005	
	Vacation and overtime	\$ 6,714	\$ 1,085	\$ 7,799	\$ 7,185			
Sick pay	458	-	458	420				
Post-employment benefits	1,003	-	1,003	1,023				
	\$ 8,175	\$ 1,085	\$ 9,260	\$ 8,628				

### Vacation and Overtime

The vacation and overtime liability is comprised of vacation and overtime that employees are deferring to future years. Employees have either earned the benefits (and are vested) or are entitled to these benefits within the next budgetary year.

### Sick Pay

The sick pay liability is comprised of sick pay that police employees are deferring to future years. Employees have either earned the benefits or are entitled to them within the next budgetary year.

### Post-employment Benefits

In December 2002, City Council approved the participation of the City of Lethbridge in the APEX PLUS program, a plan available through the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA). This plan is a supplemental employee retirement plan (SERP) that provides supplementary benefits to a prescribed class of employees in excess of the limits of the Income Tax Act (Canada). The total current and past service liability to the City to December 31, 2006 are estimated at \$1,003 (2005 - \$1,023). This amount changes as a result of interest on the liability, changes in membership, aging of the employees within the prescribed class, and other demographic experience.

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

The cost of post retirement benefits earned by employees is actuarially determined using the projected benefit method prorated on service and management's best estimate of salary and benefit escalation and retirement ages of employees. The City makes provision for its accrued SERP obligation by earmarking a portion of its assets.

## 8. DEFERRED REVENUE

		2006		2005
Deferred revenue	\$	1,763	\$	1,652
Provincial contributions	(1)	29,135		17,459
Prepaid taxes		14,680		13,416
	\$	45,578	\$	32,527

(1) Provincial contributions consist mainly of \$24,400 Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program grant, \$3,800 Basic Capital grant and \$63 Alberta Community Development grant for the Lethbridge Public Library.

## 9. AGREEMENTS PAYABLE

The City of Lethbridge has entered into agreements to purchase three separate parcels of land for future residential and industrial park developments. The lands have been recorded in Land Held for Resale.

		2006		2005
Agreement 1 - North Lethbridge industrial	\$	843	\$	1,286
Agreement 2 - West Lethbridge residential		787		1,030
Agreement 3 - West Lethbridge residential		339		498
	\$	1,969	\$	2,814

Principal and interest repayments are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2007	\$ 1,261	\$ 89	\$ 1,350
2008	435	28	463
2009	273	11	284
	\$ 1,969	\$ 128	\$ 2,097

### Agreement 1

On November 21, 2002 the City of Lethbridge purchased 468.34 acres of land held for future industrial park subdivision.

Under the terms of the agreement the balance is due November 21, 2007. The City has the option to extend the term of the agreement for an additional 5 years. This extension is subject to agreement between the parties at the interest rate effective during the extended term.

Under the terms of the agreement, the City has the option to accelerate the purchase of specific parcels of land. To exercise this option, the City is required to subdivide the desired land and pay the amount of the outstanding agreement payable proportional to the subdivided land.

### Agreement 2

On April 26, 2004 the City of Lethbridge purchased 81.13 acres of land held for future residential subdivision in West Lethbridge. Under the terms of the agreement, payments are made in five annual installments ending in 2009.

### Agreement 3

On April 22, 2004 the City of Lethbridge purchased 80.06 acres of land held for future residential subdivision in West Lethbridge. Under the terms of the agreement, payments are made in four annual installments ending in 2008.

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 10. DEBENTURE DEBT

		2006		2005
General - tax supported	\$	-	\$	171
- self supported		7,626		6,608
		7,626		6,779
Utilities		45,301		35,204
	\$	52,927	\$	41,983

Principal and interest repayments are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2007	\$ 5,149	\$ 2,641	\$ 7,790
2008	5,409	2,405	7,814
2009	5,449	2,155	7,604
2010	5,184	1,912	7,096
2011	4,755	1,666	6,421
2012 to maturity	26,981	6,700	33,681
	\$ 52,927	\$ 17,479	\$ 70,406

Debenture debt is repayable to the Alberta Capital Finance Authority. Existing debentures mature in annual amounts to the year 2023. Other than a \$137 interest free loan, interest rates on these debentures range from 3.55% to 12.0% per annum. The Province of Alberta rebates part of the interest paid on qualifying debentures. Debenture debt is issued on the credit and security of the City of Lethbridge at large.

Interest on long-term debt amounted to \$ 2,366 (2005 - \$2,248).

The City's total cash payments for interest were \$2,302 (2005 - \$1,901).

## 11. CAPITAL ASSETS

	General <sup>(1)</sup>	Utility <sup>(1)</sup>	2006 <sup>(1)</sup>	Total	2005
Engineering structures	\$ 286,774	\$ 288,137	\$ 574,911	\$	529,351
Buildings	106,545	77,173	183,718		176,552
Vehicles	40,360	82	40,442		37,201
Land	20,929	1,351	22,280		22,124
Equipment and furnishings	19,948	2,703	22,651		20,782
Subdivision development	18,912	5,864	24,776		19,206
	493,468	375,310	868,778		805,216
Accumulated depreciation - Note 1h	-	25,350	25,350		21,184
	\$ 493,468	\$ 349,960	\$ 843,428	\$	784,032

<sup>(1)</sup> Refer to Note 1 g.

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 12. CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR

As is common for municipal governments, the General Fund budget is prepared on a balanced basis, however the budgets for the individual Utility operations in any year may be prepared to reflect a budgeted surplus or deficit. Details of surpluses, deficits and corresponding budgets are disclosed as follows:

	2006 Actual Surplus (Deficit)	2006 Budgeted Surplus (Deficit)	2005 Actual Surplus (Deficit)
		(unaudited)	
General	\$ 2,401	\$ -	\$ 1,607
Water	1,065	332	3
Wastewater	82	-	56
Waste services	187	453	(90)
Electric	(508)	-	952
	\$ 3,227	\$ 785	\$ 2,528

## 13. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

	Balance 2005	Appropriations and Adjustments	2006 Surplus (Deficit)	Balance 2006
General	\$ 1,607	\$ (1,607)	\$ 2,401	\$ 2,401
Water	5	-	1,065	1,070
Wastewater	144	(93)	82	133
Waste services	419	-	187	606
Electric	952	(952)	(508)	(508)
	\$ 3,127	\$ (2,652)	\$ 3,227	\$ 3,702

General Fund and Electric Utility surpluses and deficits of the prior year are transferred to the Municipal Revenue Stabilization Reserve in the current year. The 2006 General Fund accumulated surplus of \$2,401 will be transferred to the Municipal Revenue Stabilization Reserve in 2007. The 2006 Electric Utility accumulated deficit of \$508 will be funded from the Municipal Revenue Stabilization Reserve in 2007.



# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements *(continued)*

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 14. RESERVES

	2006	2005
<b>OPERATING</b>		
Budget Appropriations	\$ 18,385	\$ 17,815
Municipal Revenue Stabilization Reserve (Note 15)	7,752	6,584
Urban Parks	795	884
Insurance	847	607
Snow Removal	577	545
Cemeteries	497	386
Mayor Magrath Drive Beautification	90	83
Acquisition of Local Art Work	8	8
	28,951	26,912
<b>CAPITAL</b>		
Fleet Services	6,646	3,698
Major Capital Projects	2,475	2,407
Community Lighting	1,569	1,482
Real Estate Holdings	1,512	1,367
Acquire Off Street Parking	1,160	968
Central Business District Land Acquisition	728	734
Community Reserve Fund	657	631
Transit Bus	936	344
School Bus	41	13
	15,724	11,644
	\$ 44,675	\$ 38,556



# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 15. MUNICIPAL REVENUE STABILIZATION RESERVE

The purpose of this reserve is to stabilize the effects of fluctuating interest revenues and General Fund operating surpluses and deficits on annual taxation requirements. All General Fund and Electric Utility surpluses of prior years, return on investments, municipal consent and access fee/franchise fee and by-law enforcement revenue surpluses, CentreSite equity refunds, internal financing recoveries and other allocations from General Operations are added to the reserve. Any General Fund and Electric Utility deficits of prior years, municipal consent and access fee/franchise fee and by-law enforcement revenue shortfalls, budgeted allocations to General Fund operations, one time expenditures and internal financing advances are charged to the reserve. The transactions affecting the reserve for the year ended December 31, 2006 are as follows:

	2006	2005
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 6,584	\$ 11,848
Add: Recovery of internal financing	9,036	6,152
Allocation from electric capital (depreciation)	5,606	4,990
Municipal consent and access fee - electric	5,165	4,608
Return on investment - electric	3,237	4,602
Investment income	3,077	3,355
Prior year general fund operating surplus (Exhibit 6)	1,607	605
Prior year electric operating surplus	952	2,017
By-law enforcement revenue surplus	354	337
CentreSite equity refund	201	707
ATCO franchise fee surplus	171	66
Electric refunds	21	27
Utility customer access fee	-	385
Other	27	2
	<u>36,038</u>	<u>39,701</u>
Less: Electric wire service - allocation to general operations	8,200	8,200
Allocation to electric distribution capital projects	4,614	4,990
Allocation to general operations	3,038	3,096
Land purchase - Southgate	2,555	-
Electric meter purchase	992	-
Other	689	245
Discounts on tax installment payment plan	321	218
Smith street parking	-	207
Prior year corporate surplus contingencies	-	50
Front-end financing:		
Museum expansion (fundraising)	417	-
Transit bus purchase	-	1,525
Internal financing advances:		
Wellness centre	3,375	-
Landfill cell development	1,000	-
Police technology	835	450
Museum expansion - fundraising	651	171
Industrial wastewater facility local improvement	570	-
Local improvement - lane paving	349	264
Lethbridge Soup Kitchen	316	-
Utility trailers and excavation shoring	250	-
Cemetery gravesite restoration	114	-
Residential subdivisions	-	6,292
Sherring industrial park offsite levies	-	6,000
Museum expansion	-	969
Museum expansion - GST rebate	-	440
	<u>28,286</u>	<u>33,117</u>
Balance, end of year	\$ 7,752	\$ 6,584

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 16. EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT

	2006	Budget (unaudited)	2005
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 77,813	\$ 79,335	\$ 71,315
Materials, supplies and utilities	48,734	39,722	24,369
Contracted and general services	31,339	33,047	26,690
Debenture debt interest	2,366	2,241	2,247
Grants to individuals and organizations	2,130	2,454	1,654
Financial charges	556	411	422
Other	1,929	3,743	1,235
	164,867	160,953	127,932
Capital	77,215	77,215	54,970
	\$ 242,082	\$ 238,168	\$ 182,902

## 17. DEBT LIMITS

Section 276 (2) of the Municipal Government Act requires that debt and debt limits as defined by Alberta Regulation 375/94 for the City be disclosed as follows:

	2006	2005
Total debt limit	\$ 316,365	\$ 272,837
Total debt	52,927	41,983
Debt limit unused	\$ 263,438	\$ 230,854
Percentage of debt to debt limit	16.73%	15.39%
Service on debt limit	\$ 52,728	\$ 45,473
Service on debt (principal and interest payments)	7,790	6,813
Service on debt limit unused	\$ 44,938	\$ 38,660
Percent of debt service to service limit	14.77%	14.98%

The debt limit is calculated at 1.5 times the revenue of the City (as defined in Alberta Regulations 375/94) and the debt service limit is calculated at 0.25 times such revenue. Incurring debt beyond these limitations requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

## 18. COMMITMENTS

### a. Contracts -

As at December 31, 2006 the City has committed funds on various capital projects in progress. The funds committed by contract and the estimated costs to complete those projects are as follows:

Description	Funds Committed	Estimated costs to complete <sup>(1)</sup>
Sherring Industrial Park Phase 1	\$ 5,334	\$ 17,998
Benton Crossing	4,599	44,020
RiverStone	1,723	30,789
SunRidge	1,630	26,900
Project Clearview	1,451	2,489
University Drive - Whoop-Up Drive to McGill Blvd	826	2,104
Whoop-Up Drive - Blackfoot Road to West of Benton Drive	705	800
West Lethbridge Library	686	7,596
Southeast Reservoir	400	400
	\$ 17,354	\$ 133,096

In addition to the above, the City has projects planned in its Capital Improvement Program for which no funds have been committed by contract as at December 31, 2006.

<sup>(1)</sup> Total estimated costs to complete includes funds committed as at December 31, 2006 plus estimated costs to complete the project which are not yet committed by contract. These costs may be funded by both the City and external sources.

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## COMMITMENTS (continued)

### b. Regional Water Agreement -

As approved by City Council on June 14, 1999, the City has entered into an agreement to supply water to the Lethbridge Regional Water Services Commission. Under the terms of the agreement in effect, as amended, until January 31, 2030 the City has agreed, subject to specified events deemed to be beyond the control of the City, to supply a maximum of 18.5 million litres per day at a pressure of 55 pounds per square inch at the point of delivery to the water feedermain.

### c. Fee for Service Contracts -

The City has entered into various contracts whereby third party agencies provide services to the community on behalf of the City of Lethbridge. These fee for service contracts vary in their length, terms and conditions.

#### i) Recreation Excellence -

On September 12, 2005, the City entered into a six year contract with Recreation Excellence to provide aquatic programs, office operations, water quality system management, general maintenance, repair and replacement for interior facility maintenance, related aquatic services, and lifeguarding requirements on behalf of the City. The contract expires on September 5, 2011 and includes the operation of Nicholas Sheran, Stan Siwik, Fritz Sick, and Henderson swimming pools. Both parties have agreed to open the contract for negotiation of rates for the period from September 2009-2011.

#### ii) BFI Canada Inc. -

On December 16, 2003, the City entered into a five year contract with BFI Canada Inc. to operate the Lethbridge Regional Landfill. The contract is from December 1, 2003 to November 30, 2008 with an option for the City to extend the contract for an additional two years. Under the contract for 2007, the City has committed to pay a charge of \$105 per month. In addition, the City will pay a charge of \$1.46 (one dollar and 46 cents) per tonne of all materials received at the landfill to a maximum of 150,000 tonnes per year and \$6.72 (six dollars and 72 cents) per tonne in excess of 150,000 tonnes per year. The contract includes an annual escalator of 3% on the monthly and tonnage charges.

#### iii) Commissionaires (Southern Alberta) -

On March 16, 2007 the City entered into a three year contract with Commissionaires (Southern Alberta) to operate the Lethbridge Regional Landfill Scale House. The contract is from March 16, 2007 to March 15, 2010 with an option for the City to extend the contract for an additional two years. Under the terms of the contract, the City is to pay \$83 annually.

#### iv) Other -

The City has entered into various other contracts in the normal course of operations.

## 19. PENSION PLANS

Employees of the City qualify to belong to one or more of the following defined-benefit pension plans:

### a. Local Authorities Pension Plan -

Employees of the City, with the exception of police officers, participate in the Local Authorities Pension Plan ("LAPP"), a multi-employer plan covered by the Alberta Public Sector Pension Plans Act. The Plan serves about 160,000 people and 407 employers in Alberta. The plan is financed by employer and employee contributions and investment earnings of the LAPP funds.

At December 31, 2005 the LAPP disclosed an actuarial deficit of \$864,000 (2004 - \$1,289,000).

The City is required to make current service contributions to the LAPP of 7.75% of pensionable earnings up to the Canada Pension Plan Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings ("YMPE") and 10.64% for the excess. Employees are required to make current service contributions of 6.75% to the YMPE and 9.64% for any portion of pensionable salary over the YMPE.

Total current and past service contributions by the City to the LAPP in 2006 were \$3,971 (2005 - \$3,504). Total current and past service contributions by the employees of the City were \$3,367 (2005 - \$2,893).

### b. Special Forces Pension Plan -

Police officers employed by the City participate in the Special Forces Pension Plan ("SFPP"), a multi-employer plan covered by the Alberta Public Sector Pension Plans Act. The plan serves about 5,000 people and 7 employers in Alberta. The plan is financed by employer and employee contributions and investment earnings of the SFPP funds.

At December 31, 2005 the SFPP disclosed an actuarial deficit of \$67,300 (2004 - \$208,400).

The contribution rates for 2006 were 11.11% (2005 - 11.11%) of pensionable earnings for the City and 10.01% (2005 - 10.01%) of pensionable salaries for police officers. Total current and past service contributions by the City to the SFPP in 2006 were \$1,025 (2005 - \$969). Total current and past service contributions by the police officers to the SFPP were \$910 (2005 - \$863).

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## PENSION PLANS (continued)

### c. APEX Supplementary Pension Plan -

The APEX supplementary pension plan, an Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) sponsored defined benefit pension plan covered under the provisions of the Alberta Employment Pension Plans Act, commenced on January 1, 2003 and provides supplementary pension benefits to a prescribed class of employees. The plan supplements the Local Authorities Pension Plan.

Contributions are made by the prescribed class of employees and the City. Employees and the City are required to make current service contributions to APEX of 2.5% (2005 - 2.5%) and 3.0% (2005 - 3.0%) respectively of pensionable earnings up to \$106.

Total current service contributions by the City to APEX in 2006 were \$260 (2005 - \$225). Total current service contributions by the employees of the City were \$211 (2005 - \$188).

The cost of post-retirement benefits earned by employees is actuarially determined using the projected benefit method prorated on service and management's best estimate of salary and benefit escalation and retirement ages of employees. The cost of post-retirement benefits are fully funded.

## 20. SALARY AND BENEFITS

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for elected municipal officials, the chief administrative officer and designated officers as required by provincial regulation is as follows:

	Number of Persons	Salary	Benefits & Allowances	2006	2005
Mayor:					
R. Tarleck	1	\$ 50	\$ 32	\$ 82	\$ 80
Aldermen:					
R. Dodic	1	15	13	28	30
L. Iwaskiw	1	16	12	28	28
B. Lacey	1	17	12	29	27
R. Parker	1	15	13	28	29
L. Vaala	1	15	13	28	29
S. Ward	1	16	13	29	27
J. Weadick	1	17	12	29	27
T. Wickersham	1	15	13	28	29
	8	\$ 127	\$ 102	\$ 227	\$ 226
City Manager	1	\$ 155	\$ 23	\$ 178	\$ 172
Designated Officers <sup>(1)</sup>	4	\$ 424	\$ 85	\$ 509	\$ 490

<sup>(1)</sup> Designated Officers include the City Assessor, City Clerk, City Solicitor, and Chief Financial Officer.

Aldermen who perform the duties of Deputy Mayor on a rotational basis have their salaries adjusted accordingly. Salary includes regular base pay, per diem amounts and any other direct cash remuneration. Benefits and allowances include the employer's share of all employee benefits, contributions or payments made on behalf of employees, and the employer's share of the costs of any additional taxable benefits.

## 21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, the fair value of financial instruments approximates their carrying value. It is management's opinion that the City is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from financial instruments.

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## 22. CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

Contributions receivable are reflected in amounts due from other governments in Receivables, Note 4.

### a. Alberta Centennial Legacies Program

#### Sir Alexander Galt Museum Expansion Project:

The City of Lethbridge has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,300 from the Alberta Government's Centennial Legacies Grant Program, under a contribution agreement dated March 29, 2004 as amended. The grant funds and corresponding monthly interest, held by the Alberta Government in their Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund, have been allocated to the City of Lethbridge exclusively for the purpose of the Sir Alexander Galt Museum Expansion Project.

As of December 31, 2006, \$1,300 plus interest of \$69 were released to the City of Lethbridge in accordance with the agreement and recognized as revenue. These funds have been forwarded to the City, as certification of the project milestones, key dates and activities have been completed as described in the Sir Alexander Galt Museum Expansion Project Capital Plan.

Sir Alexander Galt Museum Expansion Project:	
Alberta Centennial Legacies Grant	\$ 1,300
Funding received and expended: property acquisition	(275)
Funding received and expended: construction and finishing	(1,094)
Interest earned	69
Alberta Centennial Legacies grant funding receivable, end of year	\$ -

#### Sherring Soccer Complex Project:

The City of Lethbridge has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$600 from the Alberta Government's Centennial Legacies Grant Program, under a contribution agreement dated March 3, 2005. The grant funds and corresponding monthly interest, held by the Alberta Government in their Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund, have been allocated to the City of Lethbridge exclusively for the purpose of the Sherring Soccer Complex Project.

As of December 31, 2006, \$600 plus interest of \$47 were released to the City of Lethbridge in accordance with the agreement and recognized as revenue. These funds have been forwarded to the City, as certification of the project milestones, key dates and activities have been completed as described in the Sherring Soccer Complex Capital Plan.

Sherring Soccer Complex Project:	
Alberta Centennial Legacies Grant	\$ 600
Funding received and expended:	(647)
Interest earned	47
Alberta Centennial Legacies grant funding receivable, end of year	\$ -

#### Galt Gardens Project:

The City of Lethbridge has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$250 from the Alberta Government's Centennial Legacies Grant Program, under a contribution agreement dated April 6, 2005. The grant funds and corresponding monthly interest have been allocated by the Alberta Government to their Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund exclusively for the purpose of the Galt Gardens Project.

As of December 31, 2006, \$250 plus interest of \$14 has been recorded as a contribution receivable. These funds will be forwarded to the City upon certification that the project milestones, key dates and activities have been completed as described in the Galt Gardens Project Capital Plan.

Galt Gardens Project:	
Alberta Centennial Legacies Grant	\$ 250
Interest earned	14
Alberta Centennial Legacies grant funding receivable, end of year	\$ 264

# Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## b. Minister of Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces of Canada

The City of Lethbridge has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,900 from the Federal Government's Cultural Spaces of Canada Grant Program, under a contribution agreement dated March 31, 2004. The grant funds have been allocated by the Federal Government for the purpose of the Sir Alexander Galt Museum Expansion Project.

As of December 31, 2006, \$1,900 of these funds were released to the City of Lethbridge in accordance with the agreement, as completion of the project and receipt of final reporting requirements are complete.

Sir Alexander Galt Museum Expansion Project:		
Cultural Spaces of Canada Grant	\$	1,900
Funding received and expended:		(1,900)
Cultural Spaces of Canada Grant Funding receivable, end of year	\$	-

## c. Minister of Canadian Heritage Museum Assistance Program

The City of Lethbridge has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$160 from the Federal Government's Museum Assistance Grant Program, under a contribution agreement dated December 21, 2005. The grant funds have been allocated by the Federal Government for the purpose of the Sir Alexander Galt Museum Expansion Project Kainai Exhibit.

As of December 31, 2006, \$160 of these funds were released to the City of Lethbridge in accordance with the agreement, as completion of the project and receipt of final reporting requirements are complete.

Sir Alexander Galt Museum Expansion Kainai Exhibit:		
Canada Heritage Museum Grant	\$	160
Funding received and expended:		(160)
Federal Museum Assistance Grant Funding received, end of year	\$	-

## 23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The City of Lethbridge owns properties that may contain environmental contamination and require site reclamation. The amount of any such obligations has not been determined.

## 24. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted in the current year.

## 25. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by City Council.

# General Fund Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 4

		2006	2005
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	- Note 2	\$ 7,651	\$ 3,518
Investments	- Note 3	119,173	102,197
Receivables	- Note 4	11,650	10,248
Due from (to) utility fund	- Exhibit 8	1,922	(3,483)
Land held for resale		14,996	15,030
CentreSite investment	- Note 5	7,132	7,359
Loans and advances		467	568
Other assets		677	883
		163,668	136,320
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	- Note 6	15,849	14,715
Employee benefit obligations		8,176	7,727
Deferred revenue	- Note 8	45,578	32,527
Due to CentreSite		377	377
Deposits and other liabilities		4,878	3,699
Agreements payable	- Note 9	1,969	2,814
Debenture debt	- Note 10	7,626	6,779
		84,453	68,638
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		79,215	67,682
<b>PHYSICAL ASSETS</b>			
Inventory held for consumption		1,439	1,218
Capital assets	- Note 11	493,468	460,149
		494,907	461,367
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		\$ 574,122	\$ 529,049
<b>MUNICIPAL POSITION</b>			
Fund balances:			
Operating fund			
Accumulated surplus	- Exhibit 6	\$ 2,401	\$ 1,607
Land held for resale		10,542	9,839
CentreSite investment		7,132	7,359
Unfunded vacation pay		(5,705)	(5,173)
Inventory held for consumption		(1,439)	(1,218)
		12,931	12,414
Capital fund		30,235	24,471
Reserves		43,675	37,576
		86,841	74,461
Equity in physical assets			
Inventory held for consumption		1,439	1,218
Equity in capital assets		485,842	453,370
		487,281	454,588
<b>NET MUNICIPAL POSITION</b>		\$ 574,122	\$ 529,049

# General Fund Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 5

		2006	Budget (Unaudited)	2005
<b>GENERAL MUNICIPAL REVENUES</b>				
Net taxes	- Exhibit 7	\$ 61,463	\$ 60,943	\$ 54,916
Return on investments		3,185	3,480	3,383
Provincial unconditional transfers		2,447	1,119	2,447
Gas company franchise		2,582	2,551	2,476
Penalties and costs		373	361	404
Sale of land		18,086	18,086	8,163
Other		66	58	52
		88,202	86,598	71,841
<b>FUNCTIONALIZED OPERATIONS:</b>				
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES</b>				
Council and other legislative		(5,167)	(4,962)	(5,661)
General administration		9,350	11,845	7,924
		4,183	6,883	2,263
<b>PROTECTIVE SERVICES</b>				
Police		17,777	17,239	15,102
Fire		10,587	10,791	9,304
Disaster services		8	-	2
Ambulance		2,343	2,866	2,550
Protective inspections		(1,314)	(449)	(1,333)
Other protection		1,402	1,814	1,982
		30,803	32,261	27,607
<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>				
Engineering services administration		189	284	(120)
Fleet services		(2,654)	(2,390)	(2,819)
Roads, walks, lighting, parking		2,765	3,035	2,956
Storm sewers		200	248	214
Transit		4,943	5,028	4,362
		5,443	6,205	4,593
<b>FAMILY SUPPORT AND SOCIAL SERVICES</b>				
Family and community support services		353	401	440
Cemeteries		227	511	276
Other public health		59	53	47
		639	965	763
<b>DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</b>				
Planning		48	437	263
Economic development		1,718	1,616	1,339
Public housing		173	324	(7)
		1,939	2,377	1,595
<b>LEISURE AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>				
Administration		1,103	1,348	869
Recreation facilities and programs		9,854	10,765	8,997
Cultural facilities and programs		4,617	4,801	3,814
		15,574	16,914	13,680
		58,581	65,605	50,501
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>				
Allocation from utility fund		1,661	1,540	1,626
Net transfers from (to) reserves		(2,531)	3,002	(7,778)
Net transfers from capital		3,881	2,875	2,717
Provision for capital assets		(29,676)	(27,573)	(15,376)
Debenture debt principal redeemed		(833)	(837)	(606)
Change in inventory held for consumption		221	-	71
Change in other operating funds		57	-	(387)
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	- Exhibit 6	\$ 2,401	\$ -	\$ 1,607

# General Fund Statement of Accumulated Operating Surplus

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 6

		2006	2005
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR		\$ 1,607	\$ 605
Less: Appropriation to Municipal Revenue Stabilization Reserve	- Note 15	(1,607)	(605)
Add: Surplus for the year	- Exhibit 5	2,401	1,607
<b>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>- Exhibit 4</b>	<b>\$ 2,401</b>	<b>\$ 1,607</b>



# General Fund Statement of Taxes Levied

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 7

	2006	2005
<b>TOTAL TAXES LEVIED</b>		
Real property taxes	\$ 84,175	\$ 77,640
Special assessments and local improvements	2,420	2,438
Business taxes (BRZ)	166	161
Grants in lieu of taxes		
Federal	160	156
Provincial	1,405	1,446
	88,326	81,841
Less: Special requisition transfers:		
Alberta School Foundation Fund	19,651	19,673
Holy Spirit RCSRD 4	3,970	3,998
Green Acres Foundation	654	650
Downtown Lethbridge Business Revitalization Zone	168	168
	24,443	24,489
<b>TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES</b>	<b>63,883</b>	<b>57,352</b>
Less: Special levies:		
Local improvements	263	565
Street maintenance frontage taxes	2,157	1,871
	2,420	2,436
<b>NET TAXES</b>	<b>\$ 61,463</b>	<b>\$ 54,916</b>

- Exhibits 1 & 5



# Utility Fund Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 8

		WATER		WASTEWATER	
		2006	2005	2006	2005
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>					
Receivables	- Note 4	\$ 2,410	\$ 2,443	\$ 1,928	\$ 1,857
Other assets		-	-	-	-
		2,410	2,443	1,928	1,857
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	- Note 6	1,639	1,605	535	536
Employee benefit obligations		243	201	222	191
Due to (from) general fund	- Exhibit 4	(2,184)	(1,225)	(390)	583
Deposits and other liabilities		8	8	193	271
Debenture debt	- Note 10	16,901	11,132	9,972	6,807
		16,607	11,721	10,532	8,388
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS (DEBT)</b>		(14,197)	(9,278)	(8,604)	(6,531)
<b>PHYSICAL ASSETS</b>					
Inventory for consumption		350	328	74	69
Capital assets	- Note 11	110,995	98,888	114,411	106,525
		111,345	99,216	114,485	106,594
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		\$ 97,148	\$ 89,938	\$ 105,881	\$ 100,063
<b>MUNICIPAL POSITION</b>					
Fund balances:					
Operating fund					
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	- Note 13	\$ 1,070	\$ 5	\$ 133	\$ 144
Unfunded vacation pay		(243)	(201)	(217)	(191)
Inventory held for consumption		(350)	(328)	(74)	(69)
		477	(524)	(158)	(116)
Capital fund		1,677	2,118	1,373	(143)
Reserves		550	260	153	535
		2,704	1,854	1,368	276
Equity in physical assets					
Inventory held for consumption		350	328	74	69
Equity in capital assets		94,094	87,756	104,439	99,718
		94,444	88,084	104,513	99,787
<b>NET MUNICIPAL POSITION</b>		\$ 97,148	\$ 89,938	\$ 105,881	\$ 100,063



# Utility Fund Balance Sheet

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

WASTE SERVICES		ELECTRIC		TOTAL	
2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
\$ 1,157	\$ 828	\$ 6,366	\$ 6,213	\$ 11,861	\$ 11,341
-	-	646	-	646	-
1,157	828	7,012	6,213	12,507	11,341
1,421	1,290	2,620	3,440	6,215	6,871
107	75	512	434	1,084	901
(1,303)	(924)	5,799	(1,917)	1,922	(3,483)
-	-	6	6	207	285
18,428	17,265	-	-	45,301	35,204
18,653	17,706	8,937	1,963	54,729	39,778
(17,496)	(16,878)	(1,925)	4,250	(42,222)	(28,437)
-	-	3,274	2,407	3,698	2,804
22,358	21,041	102,196	97,429	349,960	323,883
22,358	21,041	105,470	99,836	353,658	326,687
\$ 4,862	\$ 4,163	\$ 103,545	\$ 104,086	\$ 311,436	\$ 298,250
\$ 606	\$ 419	\$ (508)	\$ 952	\$ 1,301	\$ 1,520
(107)	(75)	-	-	(567)	(467)
-	-	(3,274)	(2,407)	(3,698)	(2,804)
499	344	(3,782)	(1,455)	(2,964)	(1,751)
269	-	1,724	5,563	5,043	7,538
164	43	133	142	1,000	980
932	387	(1,925)	4,250	3,079	6,767
-	-	3,274	2,407	3,698	2,804
3,930	3,776	102,196	97,429	304,659	288,679
3,930	3,776	105,470	99,836	308,357	291,483
\$ 4,862	\$ 4,163	\$ 103,545	\$ 104,086	\$ 311,436	\$ 298,250



# Utility Fund Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

## Exhibit 9

	WATER		WASTEWATER	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Sale of goods and services				
Residential	\$ 9,073	\$ 9,002	\$ 6,328	\$ 6,367
Commercial	5,340	5,222	4,022	3,673
Industrial	-	-	1,648	1,441
Municipal consent and access fee	-	-	-	-
Transmission credits	-	-	-	-
Regional	896	733	13	51
Street lighting and traffic signals	-	-	-	-
Other	17	11	177	86
	15,326	14,968	12,188	11,618
<b>FUNCTIONALIZED REVENUES:</b>				
Capitalized recoveries	419	283	-	-
Provincial conditional transfers	-	14	-	7
Other	1,169	6	1,167	1
	16,914	15,271	13,355	11,626
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Net operations				
Administration	1,508	1,202	1,227	894
Purification and treatment	3,607	3,767	3,490	3,462
Engineering, metering and inspection	521	560	188	262
Transmission and distribution	2,706	2,628	-	-
Collection systems	-	-	1,360	1,381
Waste services recycling	-	-	-	-
Clean-up campaign	-	-	-	-
Landfill	-	-	-	-
Debenture financing	575	572	351	437
Customer services	1,864	295	1,453	76
Fiscal services	158	1,100	95	230
	10,939	10,124	8,164	6,742
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	5,975	5,147	5,191	4,884
Allocation to general fund	(1,225)	(1,197)	-	-
Transfer from accumulated surplus	-	-	93	-
Net transfers from (to) reserves	(281)	(719)	(1,318)	(1,692)
Net transfers from (to) capital	-	-	-	-
Provision for capital assets	(2,287)	(1,732)	(1,779)	(1,084)
Debenture debt principal redeemed	(1,181)	(1,527)	(2,135)	(2,121)
Change in inventory held for consumption	22	8	4	40
Change in other operating funds	42	23	26	29
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	1,065	3	82	56
Accumulated surplus (deficit), beginning of year	5	(38)	144	648
Transfer (to) from general reserves	-	-	-	-
Transfer (to) from utility capital	-	40	-	(560)
Transfer (to) from utility operations	-	-	(93)	-
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT), END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 1,070	\$ 5	\$ 133	\$ 144

# Utility Fund Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

WASTE SERVICES		ELECTRIC		TOTAL		
2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	Budget	2005
						(Unaudited)
\$ 9,658	\$ 8,521	\$ 21,724	\$ 6,834	\$ 46,783	\$ 50,071	\$ 30,724
528	637	5,416	5,493	15,306	11,585	15,025
-	-	6,239	4,214	7,887	8,341	5,655
-	-	5,690	5,196	5,690	6,208	5,196
-	-	4,227	4,492	4,227	4,417	4,492
-	-	-	-	909	884	784
-	-	1,005	1,001	1,005	1,031	1,001
-	-	93	124	287	293	221
10,186	9,158	44,394	27,354	82,094	82,830	63,098
-	28	2,005	1,903	2,424	1,995	2,214
306	-	-	-	306	335	21
1,065	62	480	613	3,881	2,938	682
11,557	9,248	46,879	29,870	88,705	88,098	66,015
489	440	458	2,172	3,682	3,856	4,708
-	-	-	-	7,097	6,723	7,229
-	-	368	565	1,077	1,533	1,387
-	-	33,543	11,122	36,249	35,026	13,750
4,097	2,526	-	-	5,457	5,186	3,907
956	850	-	-	956	921	850
374	336	-	-	374	431	336
3,917	3,686	-	-	3,917	3,875	3,686
-	-	-	-	926	858	1,009
980	30	831	1,064	5,128	3,754	1,465
121	147	1,161	598	1,535	145	2,075
10,934	8,015	36,361	15,521	66,398	62,308	40,402
623	1,233	10,518	14,349	22,307	25,790	25,613
(436)	(429)	-	-	(1,661)	(1,540)	(1,626)
-	-	-	-	93	93	-
880	115	(8,406)	(9,217)	(9,125)	(9,894)	(11,513)
1,870	14	(3,488)	(4,485)	(1,618)	(3,287)	(4,471)
(1,954)	(249)	-	(1)	(6,020)	(6,233)	(3,066)
(827)	(777)	-	-	(4,143)	(4,144)	(4,425)
-	-	868	306	894	-	354
31	3	-	-	99	-	55
187	(90)	(508)	952	826	785	921
419	509	952	2,016	1,520	1,520	3,135
-	-	(952)	(2,016)	(952)	(952)	(2,016)
-	-	-	-	-	-	(520)
-	-	-	-	(93)	(93)	-
\$ 606	\$ 419	\$ (508)	\$ 952	\$ 1,301	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,520

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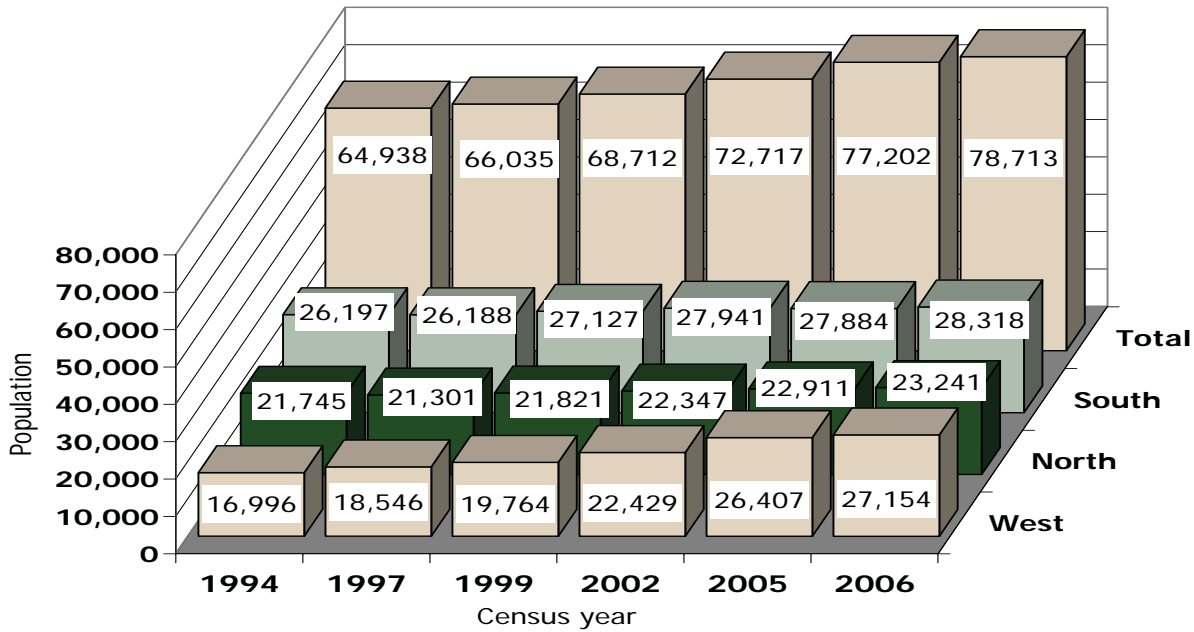
# *Statistics*

*(unaudited)*



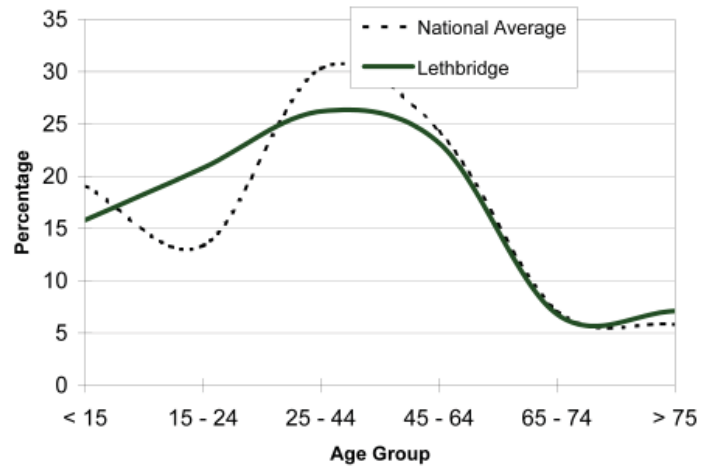
# Population and Building Permits

## Population By Location

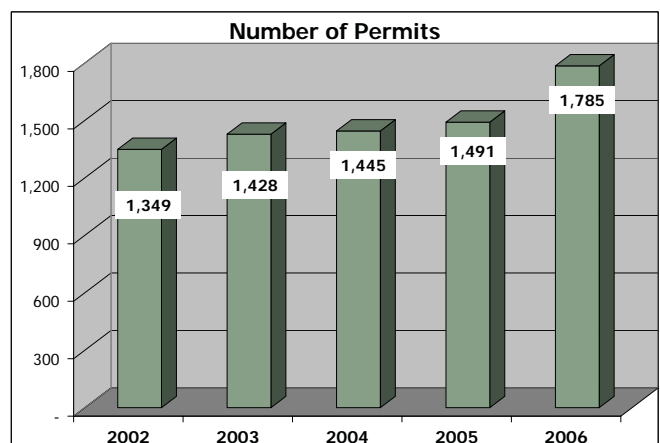
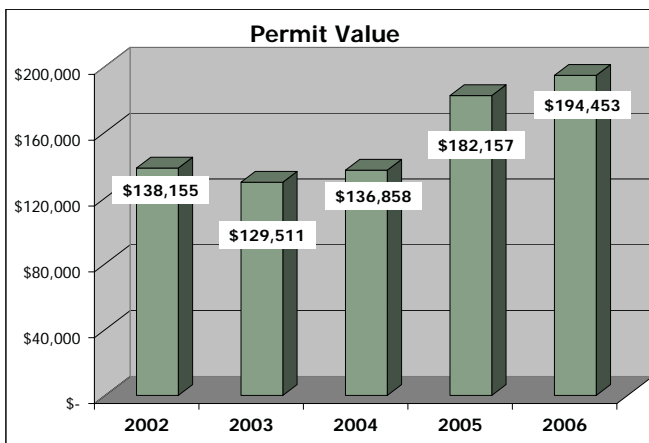


## Population By Age Group

Age Group	Population	Percentage	
		Lethbridge	National Average
< 15	12,475	15.8	19.1
15 - 24	16,351	20.8	13.4
25 - 44	20,636	26.2	30.3
45 - 64	18,257	23.2	24.3
65 - 74	5,382	6.8	7.1
> 75	5,612	7.2	5.8
	78,713	100.0	100.0



## Building Permits Issued

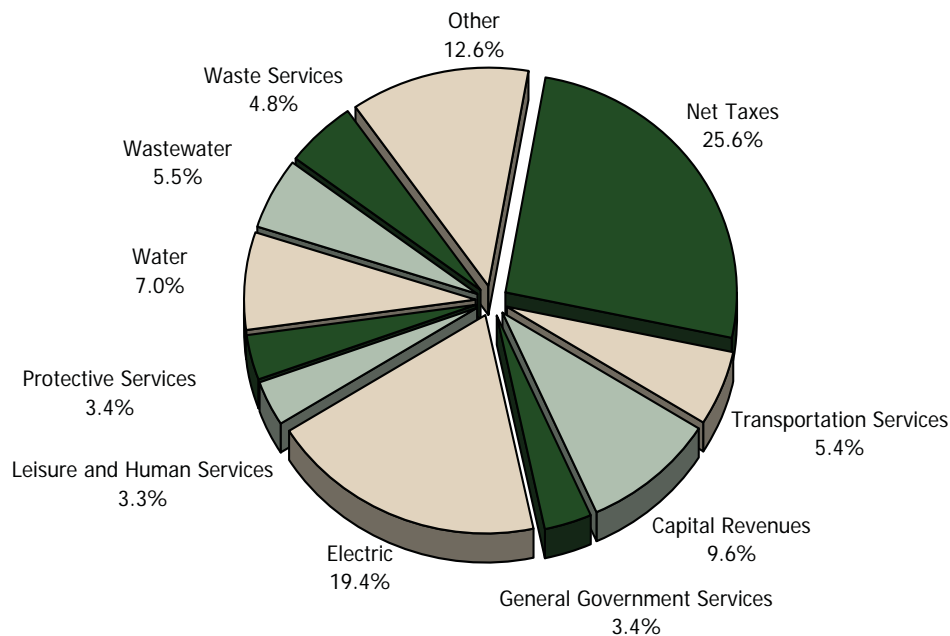


# Schedule of Consolidated Revenues

For the years ended December 31, 2002 - 2006  
(in thousands of dollars)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Net taxes	\$ 61,463	\$ 54,916	\$ 50,112	\$ 45,656	\$ 41,076
Capital revenues	23,034	13,599	14,972	11,337	18,506
Return on investments	3,185	3,383	2,490	2,262	2,358
Provincial unconditional transfers	2,447	2,447	1,120	1,766	1,766
Other	21,108	11,095	9,928	10,837	7,171
	111,237	85,440	78,622	71,858	70,877
<b>SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES</b>					
Electric	46,447	28,711	27,767	27,232	25,151
Water	16,797	15,065	13,904	14,137	13,009
Wastewater	13,239	11,421	11,790	10,902	10,205
Transportation services	13,015	11,545	11,433	10,829	8,753
Waste services	11,537	9,206	8,839	7,435	6,989
General government services	8,106	9,020	7,870	6,692	4,682
Protective services	8,226	7,679	6,655	6,139	5,586
Leisure and human services	7,834	7,314	5,807	5,468	5,230
Family support and social services	2,220	2,122	2,042	1,946	1,710
Development services	1,172	961	965	823	910
	128,593	103,044	97,072	91,603	82,225
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	\$ 239,830	\$ 188,484	\$ 175,694	\$ 163,461	\$ 153,102

## 2006 Gross Revenues

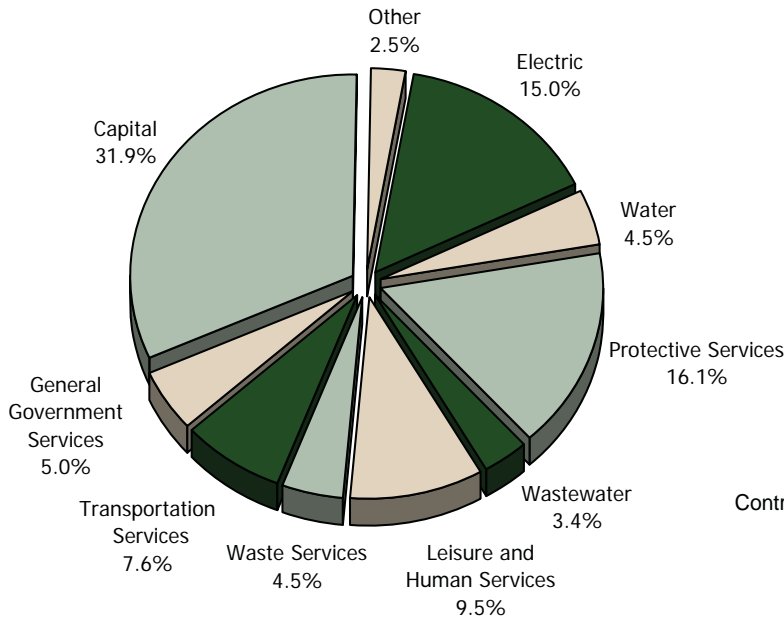


# Schedule of Consolidated Expenditures

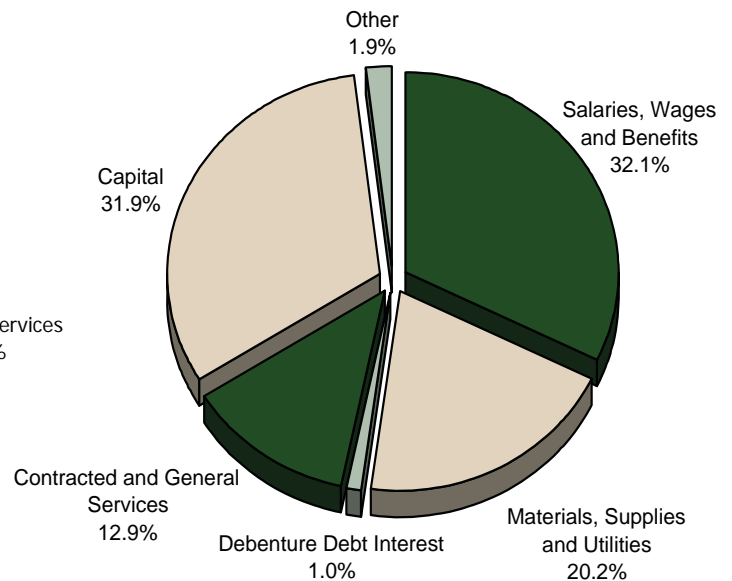
For the years ended December 31, 2002 - 2006  
(in thousands of dollars)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION</b>					
Protective services	\$ 39,029	\$ 35,281	\$ 33,060	\$ 30,793	\$ 28,300
Leisure and human services	22,950	20,295	17,612	16,319	15,136
Electric	36,357	15,519	12,440	12,113	13,958
Transportation services	18,453	16,095	14,637	14,035	11,306
General government services	12,141	10,954	10,093	10,607	10,065
Water	10,928	9,768	8,526	8,760	7,973
Waste services	10,934	8,015	7,370	7,098	6,147
Wastewater	8,131	6,599	6,815	6,249	5,808
Family support and social services	2,833	2,850	2,579	2,437	2,023
Development services	3,111	2,556	2,478	1,894	1,758
General capital	46,513	39,391	29,983	22,320	26,603
Utility capital	30,702	15,579	10,960	23,870	20,905
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION</b>	<b>\$ 242,082</b>	<b>\$ 182,902</b>	<b>\$ 156,553</b>	<b>\$ 156,495</b>	<b>\$ 149,982</b>

**2006 Gross Expenditures by Function**



**2006 Gross Expenditures by Object**



	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT</b>					
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 77,813	\$ 71,315	\$ 66,554	\$ 61,493	\$ 56,055
Materials, supplies and utilities	48,734	24,369	21,200	21,323	21,484
Contracted and general services	31,339	26,690	21,699	21,484	18,790
Debenture debt interest	2,366	2,247	2,613	2,454	2,855
Grants to individuals and organizations	2,130	1,654	1,699	1,729	1,522
Financial charges	556	422	474	408	547
Other	1,929	1,235	1,371	1,414	1,221
	164,867	127,932	115,610	110,305	102,474
Capital	77,215	54,970	40,943	46,190	47,508
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT</b>	<b>\$ 242,082</b>	<b>\$ 182,902</b>	<b>\$ 156,553</b>	<b>\$ 156,495</b>	<b>\$ 149,982</b>

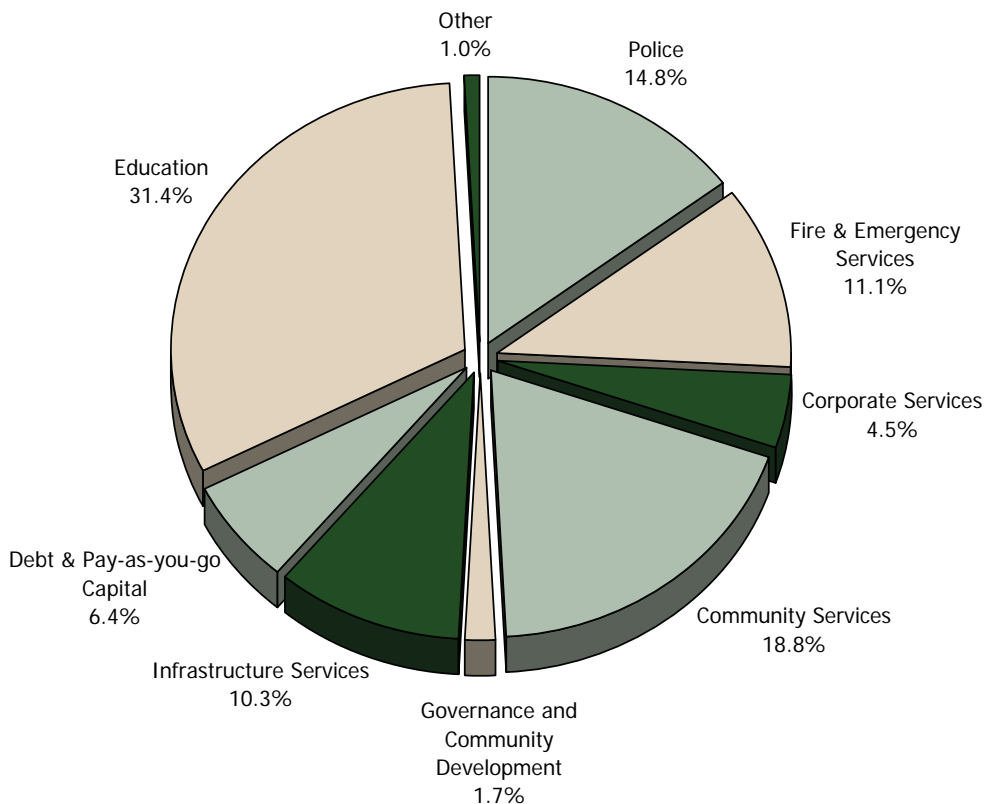
# Taxation and Assessment

For the years ended December 31, 2002 - 2006  
(in thousands of dollars)

## Property Tax Levy

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Real Property					
Municipal	\$ 59,917	\$ 53,904	\$ 48,779	\$ 44,126	\$ 40,158
Education	23,551	23,094	23,077	22,442	20,689
Other	707	642	636	636	487
Total Real Property	84,175	77,640	72,492	67,204	61,334
Special Assessments	2,420	2,438	2,410	2,296	1,972
Business Taxes (BRZ)	166	161	155	147	145
<b>TOTAL CURRENT YEAR LEVY</b>	<b>\$ 86,761</b>	<b>\$ 80,239</b>	<b>\$ 75,057</b>	<b>\$ 69,647</b>	<b>\$ 63,451</b>
Current Taxes Collected	\$ 85,774	\$ 79,252	\$ 74,165	\$ 68,734	\$ 63,004
% of Current Taxes Collected	98.9%	98.8%	98.8%	98.7%	99.3%

## Allocation of Residential Property Tax Dollars



## Taxable Assessment (in thousands of dollars)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Residential	\$ 4,332,118	\$ 3,718,770	\$ 3,376,495	\$ 3,146,391	\$ 2,924,610
Apartments	250,273	243,930	220,231	204,718	203,383
Commercial and Industrial	1,211,518	1,069,983	984,102	901,666	878,039
<b>TOTAL TAXABLE ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>\$ 5,793,909</b>	<b>\$ 5,032,683</b>	<b>\$ 4,580,828</b>	<b>\$ 4,252,775</b>	<b>\$ 4,006,032</b>

# Schedule of Debenture Debt

As At December 31, 2002 - 2006  
(in thousands of dollars, except for per capita)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>GENERAL</b>					
Tax supported					
Highways	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ 128	\$ 175	\$ 461
Municipal buildings	-	-	-	52	99
Land	-	96	136	172	204
	-	171	264	399	764
Self supported					
Industrial park servicing	5,755	4,200	-	-	-
Lethbridge Health Unit	-	-	151	164	176
Lethbridge and District Exhibition	911	995	1,074	1,148	1,273
Lethbridge Softball Valley complex	137	172	-	-	-
Local improvements	823	1,241	1,753	1,901	2,084
	7,626	6,608	2,978	3,213	3,533
	7,626	6,779	3,242	3,612	4,297
<b>UTILITIES</b>					
Water	13,901	11,132	10,260	11,926	10,059
Wastewater	8,622	6,807	8,728	10,569	12,357
Solid waste	18,428	17,265	18,042	18,772	10,846
Offsites	4,350	-	-	-	-
	45,301	35,204	37,030	41,267	33,262
<b>TOTAL GENERAL AND UTILITIES DEBT</b>	<b>\$ 52,927</b>	<b>\$ 41,983</b>	<b>\$ 40,272</b>	<b>\$ 44,879</b>	<b>\$ 37,559</b>
<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>78,713</b>	<b>77,202</b>	<b>72,717</b>	<b>72,717</b>	<b>68,712</b>
<b>DEBENTURE DEBT PER CAPITA</b>					
General - Mill rate supported	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 5	\$ 11	\$ 20
General - self supported	97	86	44	49	59
Utilities	576	456	568	457	521
	\$ 673	\$ 544	\$ 617	\$ 517	\$ 600
<b>MILL RATE SUPPORTED DEBENTURE DEBT:</b>					
Annual Debt Charges	\$ 190	\$ 121	\$ 448	\$ 679	\$ 1,325
% of Gross General Revenue	0.15%	0.11%	0.48%	0.86%	1.71%
% of Gross General Expenditures	0.15%	0.11%	0.49%	0.86%	1.74%
<b>DEBT LIMIT (as per Municipal Government Act):</b>					
Total debt limit	\$ 316,365	\$ 272,837	\$ 251,891	\$ 234,270	\$ 208,530
Total debt (above)	52,927	41,983	40,272	44,879	37,559
<b>DEBT LIMIT UNUSED</b>	<b>\$ 263,438</b>	<b>\$ 230,854</b>	<b>\$ 211,619</b>	<b>\$ 189,391</b>	<b>\$ 170,971</b>
Percentage of debt limit used	16.7%	15.4%	16.0%	19.2%	18.0%

# Capital Expenditures and Funding Sources

For the years ended December 31, 2002 - 2006  
(in thousands of dollars)

## Schedule of Capital Expenditures

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Engineering structures	\$ 36,441	\$ 29,742	\$ 22,929	\$ 28,307	\$ 36,257
Subdivision development	16,600	8,012	6,441	3,520	5,243
Buildings	7,266	6,099	2,399	7,870	1,722
Vehicles	5,946	5,616	4,100	4,063	1,895
Land	156	2,787	1,065	760	979
Other	6,991	1,433	1,333	140	773
Machinery & equipment	3,815	1,281	2,676	1,530	639
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 77,215</b>	<b>\$ 54,970</b>	<b>\$ 40,943</b>	<b>\$ 46,190</b>	<b>\$ 47,508</b>

## Schedule of Funding Sources for Capital Expenditures

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Operations	\$ 33,433	\$ 20,716	\$ 18,941	\$ 21,635	\$ 17,443
Debentures	16,041	6,990	1,781	13,821	2,950
Reserve	8,096	21,941	5,926	9,055	6,795
Provincial grant	6,517	4,841	6,269	4,782	11,752
Developer payments	6,504	3,782	4,579	3,139	3,468
Federal grant	6,278	1,351	1,097	2,048	1,810
Other	1,733	2,528	1,966	1,119	963
Return on investment	1,499	273	118	8	91
Sale of fixed assets	383	576	857	104	295
Current year (under)/ over expended funds	(3,269)	(8,028)	(591)	(9,521)	1,941
<b>TOTAL BY FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>\$ 77,215</b>	<b>\$ 54,970</b>	<b>\$ 40,943</b>	<b>\$ 46,190</b>	<b>\$ 47,508</b>



# Schedule of Reserves

For the years ended December 31, 2002 - 2006  
(in thousands of dollars)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>OPERATING</b>					
Budget Appropriations	\$ 18,385	\$ 17,815	\$ 15,311	\$ 14,597	\$ 10,781
Municipal revenue Stabilization	7,752	6,584	11,848	2,602	407
Urban Parks	795	884	441	198	45
Insurance	847	607	542	431	399
Snow Removal	577	545	522	394	394
Cemeteries	497	386	431	326	195
Mayor Magrath Drive Beautification	90	83	78	73	68
Acquisition of Local Art Work	8	8	8	8	8
	28,951	26,912	29,181	18,629	12,297
<b>CAPITAL</b>					
Fleet Services	6,646	3,698	4,319	2,500	4,603
Major Capital Projects	2,475	2,407	397	187	521
Community Lighting	1,569	1,482	1,289	942	1,045
Real Estate Holdings	1,512	1,367	1,365	319	148
Acquire Off Street Parking	1,160	968	812	665	544
Central Business District Land Acquisition	728	734	280	310	528
Community Reserve Fund	657	631	552	238	226
Transit Bus	936	344	306	332	317
School Bus	41	13	84	4	108
	15,724	11,644	9,404	5,497	8,040
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>\$ 44,675</b>	<b>\$ 38,556</b>	<b>\$ 38,585</b>	<b>\$ 24,126</b>	<b>\$ 20,337</b>



# Schedule of Government Transfers

For the years ended December 31, 2002 - 2006  
(in thousands of dollars)

	2006			2005	2004	2003	2002
	Provincial	Federal	Total				
<b>UNCONDITIONAL</b>							
<b>UNCONDITIONAL TRANSFERS</b>							
Municipal assistance	\$ 430	\$ -	\$ 430	\$ 430	\$ 430	\$ 430	\$ 430
Transit	202	-	202	202	202	202	202
Urban parks	487	-	487	487	487	487	487
Ambulance	1,328	-	1,328	1,328	-	-	-
	2,447	-	2,447	2,447	1,119	1,119	1,119
Payments in lieu of taxes	1,405	160	1,565	1,602	1,667	1,659	1,549
	3,852	160	4,012	4,049	2,786	2,778	2,668
<b>CONDITIONAL OPERATING</b>							
<b>GENERAL</b>							
Family and community support services	1,602	-	1,602	1,540	1,505	1,447	1,307
Police	1,181	-	1,181	1,163	1,163	647	647
Alberta Municipal Infrastructure	1,017	-	1,017	-	-	-	-
Lethbridge public library	400	-	400	312	312	337	277
Community facility enhancement program	125	-	125	19	-	-	6
Basic capital transportation - operations	100	-	100	112	382	165	281
Victim / witness services unit	100	-	100	100	57	54	50
Disaster recovery (2002 flood)	86	-	86	180	-	1	357
Police - miscellaneous	84	7	91	55	8	40	71
Fetal alcohol syndrome program	84	-	84	82	83	76	74
Other	79	81	160	219	164	19	10
Alberta mainstreet program	66	-	66	90	125	106	78
Adult literacy program	59	-	59	59	56	63	42
Library - miscellaneous	21	-	21	13	48	22	48
ALERT program	18	-	18	22	20	20	20
STEP program	18	-	18	19	10	15	14
Federal Gas tax sharing	-	257	257	-	-	-	-
Canada Day celebrations	-	3	3	4	2	2	12
Infrastructure Canada Ab. program -interest	-	-	-	-	131	-	-
SHIA - community social housing	-	-	-	-	80	770	500
Museum - miscellaneous	-	-	-	11	29	32	12
Museum freeman exhibit	-	-	-	-	-	40	162
	5,040	348	5,388	4,000	4,175	3,856	3,968
<b>UTILITY</b>							
Interest rate stabilization	-	-	-	22	50	75	97
	-	-	-	22	50	75	97
	5,040	348	5,388	4,022	4,225	3,931	4,065
<b>CONDITIONAL CAPITAL</b>							
<b>GENERAL</b>							
Alberta Municipal Infrastructure	2,933	-	2,933	-	-	-	-
Basic capital transportation	2,257	-	2,257	2,362	1,728	3,893	9,942
City special transportation (MM Dr. S.)	775	-	775	990	3,904	-	-
Galt museum expansion	188	105	293	1,966	820	665	-
Other	143	-	143	-	6	-	-
Community Facility Enhancement	119	-	119	70	125	-	-
SHIA - homeless shelter, resource centre	102	298	400	804	537	1,077	-
Federal Gas tax sharing	-	5,875	5,875	-	-	-	-
Galt gardens	-	-	-	-	226	-	-
Library expansion	-	-	-	-	20	-	-
Infrastructure Canada Alberta prog. (ICAP)	-	-	-	-	-	1,195	3,620
	6,517	6,278	12,795	6,192	7,366	6,830	13,562
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 15,409</b>	<b>\$ 6,786</b>	<b>\$ 22,195</b>	<b>\$ 14,263</b>	<b>\$ 14,377</b>	<b>\$ 13,539</b>	<b>\$ 20,295</b>

# Centennial Highlights

## A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS,...

The 2006 Lethbridge Centennial Steering Committee set out to provide a year-long framework of official events to anchor the city's centennial celebrations in 2006.



### Family Fest '05

Mayor Bob Tarleck, flanked by co-chairs Dawna Coslovi and Marc Ouellette, kicked off the year-long party with a Centennial Cake Cutting Ceremony at Family Fest '05 at Exhibition Park on December 31, 2005. With family festivities and fireworks, a large enthusiastic crowd set the standard for a year of fun and celebration.



### Official Birthday Week Celebrations

Birthday Week celebrations included the Grand Opening of the Galt Museum on May 6th and a Picnic in the Park on May 7th. There was an Official Ceremony on the City's 100th birthday, May 9th, followed by a High Tea and Fashion Show. The Fireworks were postponed for one day until the 10th due to weather concerns. The Centennial Art Show was open to the public all week, featuring paintings and sketches by local artists over the past century.



# Centennial Highlights



## Galt Museum Grand Re-Opening

The Official Birthday Week celebrations from May 6th to 10th began with the Grand Opening of the newly renovated Galt Museum. Visitors were introduced to the spectacular new wing of the historical building with its elaborate exhibits, which they will enjoy at this venue into the next century.



# Centennial Highlights



## Picnic in the Park

Thousands came out to enjoy old-fashioned family fun at the "Picnic in the Park" at Galt Gardens on a hot, sunny day on May 7th, where music from the past 100 years took us on a journey down memory lane.

In an atmosphere resembling an old-time county fair, families enjoyed hay rides, a petting zoo and old-fashioned games like sack races, hula hoops and tug-o-war.



# Centennial Highlights



## Official Birthday Ceremony - City Hall

There was standing room only at City Hall for the Official Birthday Ceremony on May 9th, with children's choirs, hoop dancing, and local and visiting dignitaries.

The Mayor presented official City of Lethbridge Keys to local centenarians, and 600 pieces of centennial birthday cake were served.



# Centennial Highlights

## Commemorative Flag

The Committee also produced a centennial flag to be flown at all official buildings and educational institutions, featuring the centennial "Rediscover Lethbridge" logo. Due to public demand, the Committee offered the same flag to the local residents and business owners at cost, so they could fly the centennial flag as well. When the Mayor and the Committee Co-chairs raised the flag at City Hall at an official Flag Raising Ceremony on April 3rd, they were joined by others throughout the city, raising their flags in unison. Over 80 centennial flags could be seen flying over Lethbridge in 2006.



City Hall



Our Lady of the Assumption Elementary School

Mrs. Zook's Grade 2 class

Mrs. Mikuliak's 1/2 class



The Provincial Building

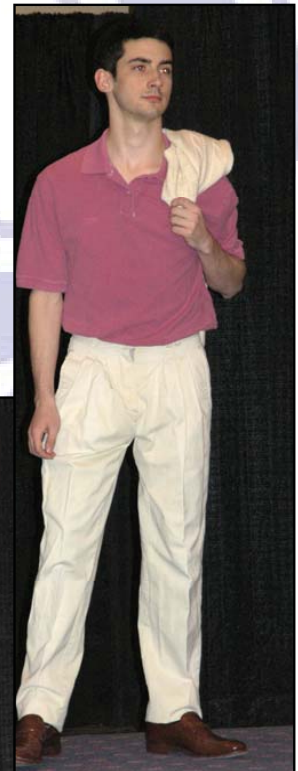


University of Lethbridge

# Centennial Highlights

## High Tea & Fashion Show

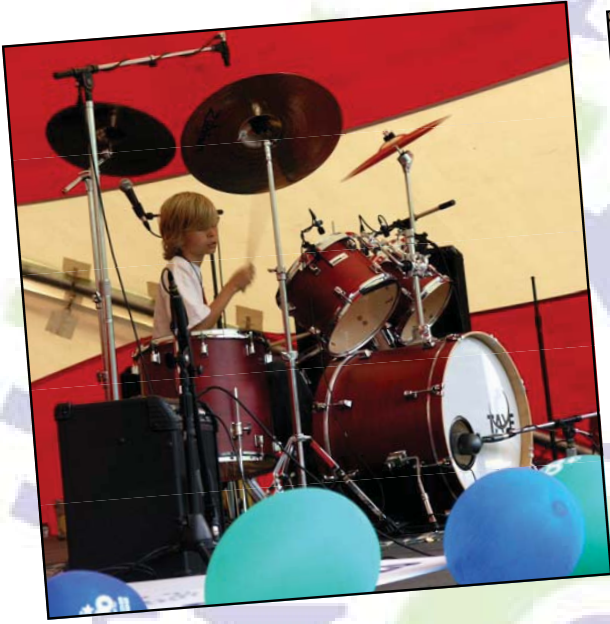
Tickets were sold out for the High Tea and Fashion Show at the Lethbridge Lodge, featuring "Fashion Through the Decades" presented by the University of Lethbridge Theatrical Department. Some in the audience enhanced the mood by dressing in period costume.



# Centennial Highlights



# Centennial Highlights



## Centennial X-Treme Youth Fest

The Centennial X-Treme Youth Fest was a big hit with area teens on July 6th in the heat of the summer, with live music by the youth band "Darkest Day" and karaoke.

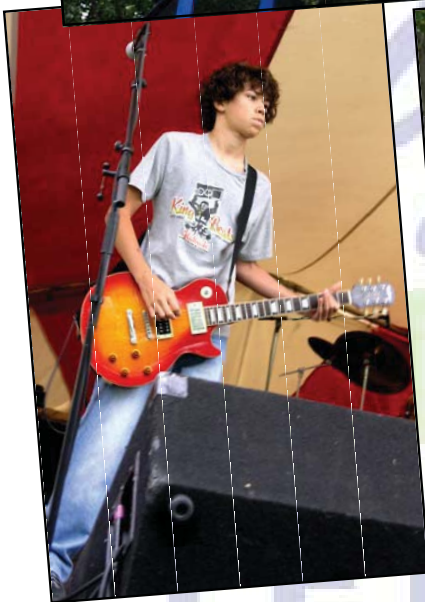


# Centennial Highlights



Activities included sumo wrestling, a bungee run, a dunk tank, water pistol games, flag football, beach volleyball, airbrush tattoos and more.

This event coincided with the Southern Alberta Summer Games, and all visiting athletes and spectators were encouraged to come to this event to make new friends.



# Centennial Highlights



## Canada Day

Canada Day was celebrated at Fort Whoop-Up with Citizenship Court, historical re-enactments and a traditional Welcoming Ceremony. Customary Native food was on the menu, with Centennial/Canada Day cake for dessert.



There was perfect weather all day, from the morning ceremonies to the fireworks at night.

At Galt Gardens there was a Family Festival for the youngsters and a Party in the Park with live music for all.



Henderson Park was the place to go for a variety of live entertainment all day and fireworks after the sun went down.

The audience expected the same spectacular fireworks display as they were treated to in May, and they were not disappointed.

# Centennial Highlights

## Community Involvement

In addition to the official City events, local businesses, community groups and individuals actively participated in celebrating Lethbridge's 100th birthday by giving their own events a centennial theme.



Extindicare Lethbridge held a Centennial Tea where the Mayor and Senator Joyce Fairbairn honoured Fay Meikle and five other centenarians with a Key to the City.



On a recent Government of Canada fact finding mission to Khandahar Afghanistan, Lethbridge Member of Parliament Rick Casson, Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defense, presented a centennial banner to Canadian troops stationed at Khandahar Air Field.



Nick Bolokoski and Clarice Shortland were crowned the Centennial Hat Day King and Queen at NordBridge Seniors Centre.



Pati Wigelsworth's class with the Lethbridge Preschool Services Project celebrated 100 Years at the Galt Museum.



The Lethbridge Centennial became the theme for many banquets, barbecues, family reunions, birthday parties, conferences, sporting events and the Whoop Up Days parade.



# Centennial Highlights



## Family Fest '06

The year-long Lethbridge Centennial celebrations came to a fitting end on December 31, 2006 at Family Fest '06 with free family fun, music, attractions and activities, and Grand Finale fireworks.





*Photo courtesy of Red Zenda*



*Photo courtesy of Red Zenda, Lethbridge Photography Club*

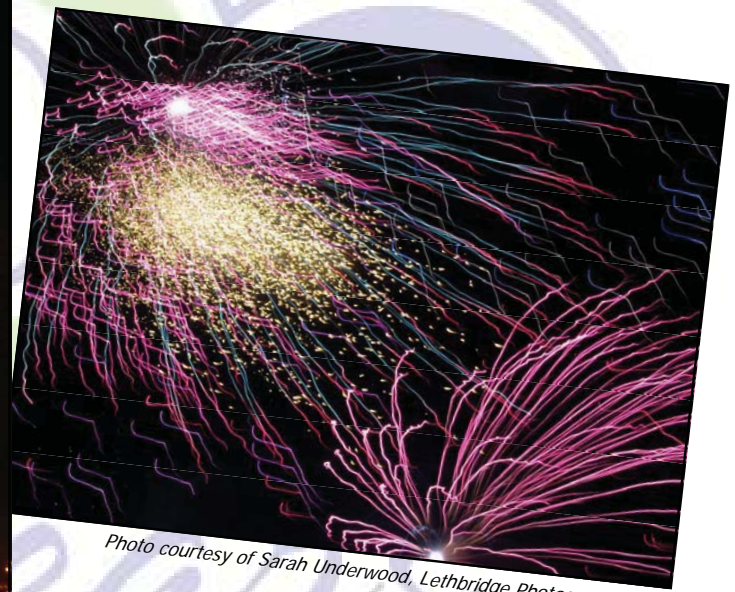


*Photo courtesy of Byron Lee, Lethbridge Photography Club*

## 100th Birthday Fireworks

On May 10th, young and old filled Henderson Park to enjoy the largest, longest and loudest fireworks display the city has seen in its history, accompanied by a music montage.

All centennial fireworks throughout the year were measured against this new standard, and people were not disappointed.



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Underwood, Lethbridge Photography*



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Underwood, Lethbridge Photography Club*

# Centennial Highlights

## Corporate Involvement

The City of Lethbridge contributed to the 2006 Lethbridge Centennial celebrations in many ways.

The City also provided advertising for official and community events in the Leisure Guide and on the City's web site...




CITY OF  
*Lethbridge*



City publications were designed with a centennial theme...



### A MESSAGE from the MAYOR



Welcome to Lethbridge – a beautiful city that proves you don't have to go to a large centre to discover friendly people, fine dining, great entertainment, and exciting cultural experiences. Browse the pages of this Lethbridge Guide to find information about all of our opportunities and many more.

Lethbridge is a prairie city which enjoys a strategic location across the Old Man River. We are within a one hour drive of the Rocky Mountains to the west and a 75 minute drive to the US border to the south. Take the time to explore the region, and you will find a number of fabulous travel destinations within a one hour drive of Lethbridge. We would be pleased to serve as your home while you explore southern Alberta, especially since Lethbridge now boasts the recent completion of many new hotels and motel facilities that are sure to please.

Lethbridge is a city where people still care for their neighbours and feel safe in the streets. Even in a city unlike any other. Thanks to our community pride, and you can be certain that our residents will welcome you warmly. The quality of life in Lethbridge is unparalleled and it's here for you to share.

*Robert O. Leibel*  
Robert O. (Bob) Turlock, M.A., M.Ed., M.Sc. Alex Tsui  
Mayor  
2006

### Celebrating LETHBRIDGE CENTENNIAL

We hope you will "Rediscover Lethbridge" by participating in Lethbridge Centennial events which are planned for the year 2006!

The City of Lethbridge has planned a year-long party to celebrate Lethbridge's 100th birthday, including a full slate of official events which kicked off with Family Fest '06 to bring in the New Year. Next on the agenda is the Official Birthday Week with many family-friendly functions, starting on May 26th and ending with Birthday Fireworks on Lethbridge's 100th on May 28th. Canada Day will also be celebrated as a Centennial event this year, and there will be a much needed day of the Southern Alberta Summer Games which will be held in the City this year from July 6th to 9th. Lethbridge's Centennial year will wind down with a grand finale on December 31st at Family Fest '06.

In addition to these official events, many community organizations are planning their 2006 events with a Lethbridge Centennial theme, and we encourage you to celebrate with us at these community events.

For more information about Lethbridge Centennial celebrations, visit the web site at [www.lethbridge.ca](http://www.lethbridge.ca)

#### Schedule of Official Events

<b>May 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY WEEK</b>
<b>Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Club Museum Grand Opening - 10:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Picnic in the Park - 11:30am - 3:30pm
<b>Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Official Ceremonies & Open House at City Hall - 11:00am - 1:00pm
	High Tea & Fashion Show - 2:00pm - 4:00pm
	Fireworks - 9:30pm
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>CANADA DAY</b> - Events all day with Fireworks at 11:00pm
<b>July 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>YOUTH FESTIVAL</b> - 5:00pm - 9:00pm
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>FAMILY FEST '06</b> - 6:00pm - 10:00pm

For more information about Lethbridge Centennial events, visit the Centennial web site at [www.lethbridge.ca](http://www.lethbridge.ca) or call (403) 328-1222.



# Centennial Highlights

The City advertised the centennial message to bring tourists to Lethbridge...



The City also enhanced its community-based events with a centennial theme...



# Centennial Highlights

The City of Lethbridge enhanced its services with a centennial theme throughout 2006...



As well, City events sported the centennial logo all year long.



To the Burgesses of the City of Lethbridge:

Gentlemen:—The year 1914 just passed, was the first year of Commission Government in this City, and we feel sure that the results in economy and good government, the first shown by the most elaborate Auditors report ever given out in the City of Lethbridge, and the latter by the fact that Public Works and Public Utilities Departments have accomplished the task set before them in a satisfactory manner, are most gratifying and satisfactory to all concerned.

The year 1914 has been one of great depression throughout the whole of Canada which naturally made it a very difficult year to handle civic affairs from the monetary point of view, and in fact from every point of view.

The banks have all been remarkably conservative, and in our estimation laid down conditions of borrowing that were very difficult to comply with, and keep the City's affairs moving.

Taxes came in pretty freely, in fact more so than in any other city in Alberta. At the same time, there were many delinquents which in combination with the banks' conservatism, made the navigation of the city's affairs at times a very difficult matter.

However in spite of above conditions, the city was able to come through on even keel and at the end of the year was in a position to reasonably meet all its obligations. While the coming year is, viewed from all signs of the times, going to be a difficult one for the Commissioners, they have sufficient confidence in themselves and the support that they will receive from the people to predict that the city will come through 1915 with flying colors.

There has been a great deal more publicity given to public affairs in 1914 than in any previous year, which has been variously viewed as desirable and undesirable. Both of these sentiments have many arguments in their favor but on the whole we think it is better to have a little trouble with our financing which is the only side that publicity can adversely affect, than that the whole of the people should not be well-informed on their own affairs. We have had our house cleaning, and while it was going on everybody knew of it, but they now also know that our house is clean.

The citizens are fully aware of the efforts the Commissioners made by appointing an Assessment Committee comprised of citizens, to assist the Assessor in arriving at a fair and equitable assessment. This is a very difficult matter to deal with, and it is a very well known fact that the discussions of this Committee were of inestimable value to the Assessor and the Commissioners.

It is thought that the 1915 assessment is the fairest and most equitable that has ever been made for the City of Lethbridge, largely due to the work of the appointed Committee referred to, and the Commissioners take this opportunity to thank them heartily for their efforts.

The efforts of another appointed Committee, viz.: that on estimates, were also very much appreciated, but this was properly a 1915 Committee and will, in the regular course, be dealt with in 1915 report.

Of all the appointments by the 1914 Council, none have given greater satisfaction and better service than the appointed Police Commission. Judge Jackson and the Reverend Canon, MacMillen have given of their time very freely, and have approached the policing of the city with fearless impartiality careful attention and good common sense, which have put the police force on the highest plane, bringing to it the profound respect of the whole community.

In Chief Skelton and the police force generally, the Commission have had skillful aid in carrying out the Commission's policy. The Chief is a clean, careful, energetic and incorruptible officer, who has carried out the policy of the Commission with great credit to himself.

We must not pass on without a word of commendation to the Fire Department. This is directly under the Mayor's control. It is very efficient and has done the work required of it to perfection, and the Mayor takes this opportunity of thanking the Chief and his men for their faithful, energetic and successful discharge of their duty.

It is not necessary here for the Mayor, as Commissioner of Finance to make a report because the audit is really the best statement and report that can be made, and the Mayor and his fellow Commissioners most earnestly urge the Burgesses to give it the closest scrutiny and study each individual is capable of with the full assurance on the part of the Commissioners, that they, and all City Officials, shall be at all times most willing to give any help or explanation, that will assist the individual to a full and complete understanding of it.

The Mayor and Commissioners take this opportunity to thank all the citizens for the help they have given, by a free and fair criticism of all their most important undertakings; the individual citizens who have helped them with their personal and collective suggestions, and the newspapers who have treated the Commissioners and Commission Government with great consideration and given valuable assistance in forwarding the city's best interests during the year 1914.

Yours truly,



## Annie Enjoyed Watching Lethbridge Grow

It's only right that Annie Mackie has a key to the city. After all, at 105, Mackie has actually been around longer than Lethbridge has even been incorporated as a city.

The key, handed to her by Mayor Bob Tarleck during the city's centennial celebrations in May, was the city's way of honouring its oldest citizen. For Mackie, it caps a lifetime of memories of the city which has been her home for 80 years.

Mackie was born May 23, 1901 in Fetterangus, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. She graduated from school then took the train to Aberdeen, Scotland every day for six months of training at a secretarial school. Once graduated, Mackie worked at an office in Fraserburgh, Scotland.

However, Mackie's father died in 1921, changing the course of her life forever. In 1926 Mackie, her mother Mary and younger sister Molly immigrated to Canada, settling in Lethbridge. "All of my mother's family was here," explains Mackie. "She was one of 11."

Mackie was fortunate to land a job quickly at the Bank of Montreal, serving as the manager's stenographer. Mackie recalls well the first manager she worked under. "The manager was Danish," she says. "He had a Danish accent and I had a Scottish accent."

But despite their difficulties understanding each other off the start, Mackie says the two developed a good working relationship. "He was good to get along with." In fact, 80 years later, Mackie still keeps in touch with the manager's son, who lives in Victoria. Mackie stayed at the bank until she retired at 67, completing an impressive 42-year career that saw the bank change locations three times. When the bank moved to its current location downtown along 4 Avenue South, Mackie was called out of retirement to cut the ribbon for the opening ceremonies.

After arriving in Lethbridge, Mackie, her mother and sister lived with her grandparents for six months. Her mother then rented a house at 8th Avenue and 9th Street South. Mackie continued to rent that house after the deaths of her mother and sister until she moved into the Heritage Lodge last year at the age of 104. Mackie lost her sister Molly when Molly was 97.

Mackie and her sister, both of whom never married, resided together in the home, walked to work every day – Annie to the bank and Molly to the Lethbridge Laundry. "I walked to work four times a day," says Mackie. "(I walked) in the morning to work, home for lunch, back after and home (after work)." She recalls walking daily past the "standpipe" (watertower) located in the middle of 9 Street near the Central School, which was located at 5th Avenue and 8th Street South.

Mackie attended faithfully at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, She recalls the church once caught fire, forcing the congregation to attend services in the Paramount Theatre until their building could be restored.

The Knox Presbyterian Church merged with Wesley Methodist Church in 1925 to become Southminster United Church.

Mackie was also an avid bowler, once earning a trophy for highest score in her league. She played for the Bank of Montreal's bowling team.

When Mackie turned 100 her family threw a party attended by more than 100 guests, including many of the former bank managers she worked under. When she hit the milestone 105, Mackie celebrated with family and friends.

Although she was too ill to attend the city's official centennial celebration's May 9 to receive her key, Mayor Tarleck presented it to her two days later.



*Annie Mackie with Key to City*

## The Arts are Alive

Our city's founders may have been coal miners, but they were culturally educated.

Lethbridge's history of arts and culture dates back at least as far as the city itself.

"One thing that's really interesting about Lethbridge is the fact that art has been here since its beginning," says Suzanne Lint, executive director of the Allied Arts Council. "Going back before the turn of the century there were art and cultural activities happening in Lethbridge."

Lethbridge's first art-related club, a drama society and literary club, was formed in January 1888.

In 1896 the Lethbridge Musical Society came along and by 1899 a dancing school was operating in Lethbridge.



*1891 Opera and Theatre House*

Lethbridge's first recognized arts venue was the Building Company Hall, also known as the Opera House, it was completed in 1891. Later known by a variety of names and used for a variety of purposes, the building ultimately became the home of St. Mary's and Milk River Irrigation Development (now SMRID) in 1946. The building housed a large meeting room, and also included a stage and dressing room. The building, says Lint, was financed by various Lethbridge businessmen.

In 1900, a hall was built at 316 5th Street South. Named for William Oliver, mayor from 1901-1904, the Oliver Block still stands today. "This building had enough space that it started to attract touring vaudeville and theatre groups," says Lint.

In those early years, churches were also regularly used as venues for a lot of the theatrical activities taking place. By 1910, a music conservatory was operating out of the building most would remember as the Spudnuts donut shop. In 1916, a woman named Gladys Attree, a British immigrant who had trained with the Russian Ballet, began teaching students here once a week.

The visual arts came on the scene in 1916 as well, when another British immigrant named Edith Kirk began teaching young women drawing, watercolor and oil painting out of the YMCA.

From her classes, says Lint, grew the Lethbridge Sketch Club, one of Lethbridge's oldest continuously running arts clubs. Formed in 1938, the club is still active today under the name the Lethbridge Artists Club.

"That group has thrived," says Lint. "Some of their early members used to do painting excursions with A.Y. Jackson on his western trips."

In 1923, the Playgoers Club was formed, largely due to Mrs. and Mrs. Ernest G. Sterndale-Bennett. The English couple boasted a background in teaching, directing and performing. They left for Toronto in 1932.

Fifty seven people attended the group's first formal meeting February 15, 1923. George Mann in his book 'Theatre Lethbridge' says that core membership didn't rise above approximately 30 in the first decade, and that *The Lethbridge Herald* reported in 1932 that a total of 305 people participated in productions over the nine years of the group's existence.



*Bowman Arts Centre*

In 1946, a group called the Lethbridge Community Council formed and took on the task of promoting arts and culture in Lethbridge. Among the council's accomplishments were the establishment of a young people's orchestra, a record library within the public library and Sunday concerts in parks and playgrounds around the city.

## Branching Out

Like a testament to Lethbridge's long life as a prairie city, thousands of trees stand tall within city limits. Those trees have flourished despite difficult growing conditions, thanks to the city's commitment, both historically and currently, to maintaining a thriving urban forest.

"We have an estimated population of 40,000 trees we maintain in parks and greenstrips," says John Gilbert, the city's Urban Forestry Foreman.

Many of those trees, particularly in the older sections of the city, are 60 to 70 years old, thanks to the city's care and maintenance. "Considering the prairies are not a natural environment for tree growth," Gilbert says, "to get 70 years out of a tree is quite an accomplishment."



*View from City Hall to East Lethbridge*

Gilbert says the city's commitment to its urban forest began as early as the late 1800's. In 1901 trees were planted around the perimeter of Galt Gardens, the year after irrigation arrived in the community. Trees were not planted within the parks boundaries until 1910. In 1895, other parks were receiving trees and in the early 1900's trees were being planted on the city's boulevards. Gilbert says city crews work hard to maintain the vision city forefathers had all those years ago. The city uses a 12-15 year pruning cycle, meaning all trees are pruned every 12 to 15 years as necessary.

An extensive monitoring program during the growing season is also used to ensure the best possible health of the trees. "Insect trapping is done to stay on top of pest problems, and trees are sprayed only if absolutely necessary," says Gilbert. A tree planting and replacement program is also in effect to ensure old or sick trees are replaced and that new trees are continually added to the city's urban forest. "Lethbridge's harsh growing environment makes the tree care program even more important," says Gilbert, "and to stop work would be a shame."

"All the trees planted in Lethbridge were planted by someone," he says. "They're not natural stands. We've invested a lot of energy, blood, sweat and tears to ensure we have a well-canopied city." "The benefits of trees; cooling, shading and wind protection, also make the work worthwhile", says Gilbert.



*View from City Hall to West Lethbridge*

## Branching Out

Lethbridge's commitment to its trees was honoured in a way when the city was chosen to host the International Society of Arboriculture Conference recently. "The conference, designed to bring arborists from across the country together for education and awareness, seldom makes an appearance in a centre as small as Lethbridge, never mind a place which does not naturally support tree growth," says Grant Colling, owner of Grant's Plants and organizer of the conference. The conference descended on Lethbridge and brought with it educational seminars, courses, new tool demonstrations and even a tree-climbing competition.

Colling says many of the participants were in awe of Lethbridge's urban forest. "More than anything else, it was an eye-opener for the folks who came down," he says. "We have a wider variety of trees in this city than anywhere else in the province. Our soil is not good and (participants) were astonished that (trees) actually grew."

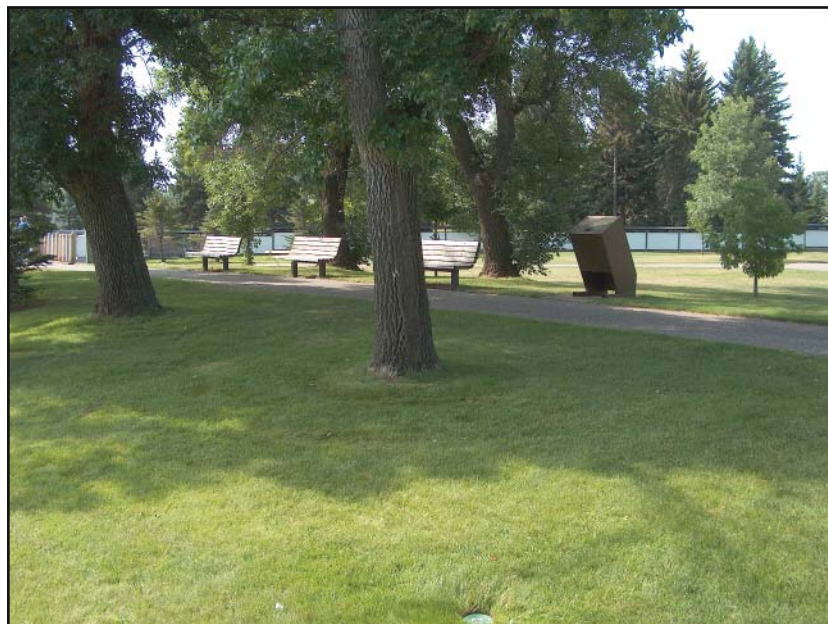
In addition to the trees under the city's care, it's estimated there are roughly three times as many trees on private property throughout the city. The city encourages residents to plant trees and to ensure they are properly watered and cared for. The city even has a hotline (320-3850) residents can call with questions about their trees. Anyone having problems can call and a technician - the city has certified arborists on staff and they will come out to take a look.

Gilbert says help from residents is essential in maintaining a healthy tree population. "We're pleased with the co-operation we get from residents," says Gilbert. "We get offers from the public to plant trees in the parks and we allow that if conditions are met."

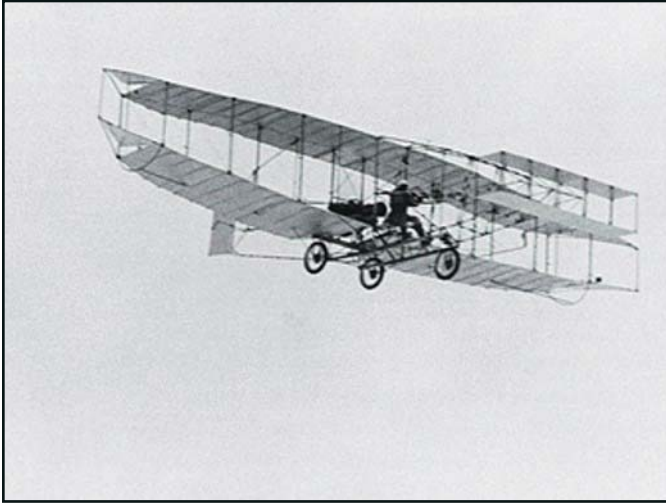
Val and Flora Matteotti are one such couple. For 19 years, the couple has been planting trees in Henderson Lake Park - over 500 trees to date.

"The idea came from former parks superintendent Ron Peterson," says Flora. "I love trees. We came from Italy where we were surrounded by trees. When I came to this city I thought (the flat prairie) was so sad."

Just as important as the hundreds of trees the Matteottis have planted in the park, is the fact that every year the city's children are involved. Each year, Grade 1-4 students from General Stewart School come to help the Matteottis plant. Flora says the goal is to foster a love of trees and the environment in the children. "I want them to plant the trees and when they grow up they can come visit and bring back their own children," she says.



## Lethbridge has Seen Several Firsts in Aviation



*Canada's first aircraft, the AEA Silver Dart*

When compared to a major airport like Calgary International, Lethbridge County Airport seems like a small piece of a big pie.

Yet the airport, and Lethbridge in general, played a significant role in western Canadian aviation history.

Many aviation firsts (including the first flight over the Rocky mountains) involved the city.

Lethbridge has had four airfields. Lethbridge's first airport was actually located at the Exhibition grounds where, in 1911 and 1918, stunt pilots performed flight shows for people gathered at the horse racing track.

Shortly after, on August 17, 1919 Ernest C. Hoy landed his aircraft in Lethbridge, successfully completing the first flight across the Rockies.

George Williams, a member of the Army, Navy and Airforce Association of Canada and retired pilot, says Hoy, flying a small, primitive aircraft, flew first from Vancouver to Vernon, then Vernon to Lethbridge.

"It was very Mickey Mouse," Williams says of Hoy's plane. "There was no radio navigating equipment. He must have been crazy."

In the 1920's and 1930's, small airfields operated where Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, the Lakeview and the Fairmont subdivisions are now.

On March 24, 1920, commercial aviation came to Lethbridge when John Ender (Jock) Palmer and Harry Fitzsimmons formed the Lethbridge Aircraft Company this second airfield was located just outside the Exhibition Grounds. Several other pilots operated in Lethbridge during this time, and city council was pressured to improve the Lethbridge airfield.

The third (and first formal) airport was at the southwest corner of 5th Avenue and 23rd Street North, beginning in 1927. In 1930, when the post office made Lethbridge a stop on its new trans-prairie airmail service, the city agreed to spend \$20,000 on a floodlight, a hangar and fences. At the same time, the Department of Transportation installed a meteorological station and beacon at the airfield, located where the Fairmont subdivision lies today.

The city relocated airport operations to its current location. On October 13, 1927 Lethbridge Air Harbour (or Municipal Airport, as it was better known), was licensed as a customs port of entry for airplanes. An airfield station, complete with two hard-surfaced runways, a hangar, a radio and meteorological station and a radio range base was officially opened June 7, 1939. The airfield Kenyon Field, was named for Herbert Hollick-Kenyon, who, on Jan. 15, 1931, officially began airmail service to Lethbridge.

## The Baroness was a Wealthy Woman with a Heart of Gold

Baroness Angela Burdett Coutts has two southern Alberta towns named after her, yet she never set foot on Canadian soil.

So how did England's wealthiest baroness and noted philanthropist come to be honoured in southern Alberta? It's all in the money.

Greg Ellis, archivist for the city, says the Baroness' financial contributions to the North West Coal and Navigation Company (although she may not have even known what she was investing in) played a major role in shaping southern Alberta.

"(The Baroness) actually has a fairly peripheral role in southern Alberta history," says Ellis. "It was really her husband William who was a mover and shaker with the North West Coal and Navigation Company." As one of the founding directors, William Lehman Ashmead Bartlett Burdett Coutts held numerous shares with the company. William was a friend of William Smith, who was brother-in-law to William Lethbridge, who was the first president of the company founded by Sir Alexander Galt.

"It was an investment chain of reaction of sorts," says Ellis. But William would not have had near the money to invest were it not for his wife. Angela, at age 67, shocked polite society in 1881 when she married her secretary William, who was only 27. In another surprising move, William, an American living in England at the time, took her name.



*Lady Burdett-Coutts*

While she may not have been much involved with her husband's dealings with the North Western Coal and Navigation Company, Angela did play a small role of her own in southern Alberta history, endowing the first Anglican Church in Lethbridge in 1887. And her history of philanthropy started much earlier than that.

Angela was born Angela Georgina Burdett, daughter of Sir Francis Burdett, 5th Baronet, a Member of Parliament, and Sophia Coutts, who was the daughter of Thomas Coutts, the wealthy banker who founded Coutts & Co. In 1937, she became the wealthiest woman in England when she inherited her grandfather's fortune of nearly two million pounds. Famous for hosting large parties, Angela soon also became well-known for giving significant portions of her fortune to good causes.

One of her earliest philanthropic moves was to establish a home for young women wishing to escape from a life of prostitution. Angela was also interested in improving conditions for blacks, and in education and relief for the poor and suffering in any part of the world. In fact, she once purchased a slum section of London, tore down the buildings and erected low-income housing for the residents there.

Angela also established the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in 1883, the Westminster Technical Institute in 1893 and was involved with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). As well, Angela was a major benefactor of the Church of England, founded the bishopric of British Columbia, and was involved in building and endowing many churches and church schools.

Other projects funded by Angela ran the gamut from help for Turkish peasants and the refugees of the 1877 Russo-Turkish War, a sewing school for women, soup kitchens and even drinking fountains for dogs in the parks of England. Through the years, Angela enjoyed the company of many royal friends, including Queen Victoria who, in 1871, conferred a peerage on her in recognition of her philanthropic work. Charles Dickens even dedicated his novel, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, to her.

On July 18, 1872, Angela became the first woman to be presented with the Freedom of the City of London. In 1874, she became Edinburgh's first woman Burgess and was presented with the freedom of that city. When she died in 1906 of acute bronchitis, Angela had given more than three million pounds to good causes.

Ellis says many of southern Alberta's towns, streets and buildings bear the names of those who helped settle the area. "Galt, through government land grants, developed a 1.25 million-acre block of land south of Lethbridge and through that a lot of towns were settled," he says. "They tended to be named after investors." Even Angela's husband William was honoured. Although since renamed as part of the city's grid map system, the names Bartlett Street and Ashmeade Street remain today on sidewalks in the London Road area.

## Bill Kergan was Known as a Champion of the North Side

While many in Lethbridge's history could be considered dedicated to the city, Bill Kergan's name would likely be very near the top of the list.

Kergan dedicated much of his life to Lethbridge, the city where he was born and raised. "He was a very civic-minded man," says Greg Ellis, archivist for the city. He was very committed to the community."

Born in 1911, Ellis says Kergan's life of service began before the Second World War, when he started with the city police. Kergan served during the war and upon his return in 1945, was rehired with the police service at the rank of Sergeant. In 1948, Kergan was appointed the city's inspector, probation officer and child welfare worker.

Long-time city resident Esther Horn had several dealings with Kergan in this capacity. "You know how some kids bring home stray cats and dogs," says Horn. "Well my daughter brought home all the stray kids." Horn said she would often feed and bathe run-aways before calling the city to come get them. Kergan actually asked Horn to be the city's official caregiver for run-aways, but she declined because she feared her home just wasn't big enough.



*1905 North Trading Co.*

Kergan also served as the city's Truant Officer, helping to deal with mischievous children. Horn recalls Kergan showing up at her doorstep in this capacity as well, after her son and a friend decided to smash things up at school in an attempt to get out of shop class. Ellis says Kergan had good success as Truant Officer. "I got the impression firm but fair would be a good way to describe him," he says. After her dealings with him, Horn agrees. Kergan let Horn deal with punishing her son, on the proviso that he be punished. But Horn's dealings with Kergan didn't end there.

Horn recalls Kergan and Health Officer Mel Friend arriving at their home in the river bottom as they were cleaning up after the flood in June 1953. The family intended to move back into their flooded home, although the city had not yet given permission for anyone to return to the river valley. "The first time I recall meeting him we'd been out of our house for three days and moved back down," says Horn. "Bill Kergan and Mel Friend came along and said we were supposed to get permission before we moved back." The family ignored them, and a few days later they returned. "We had ordered our water and just as the truck was unloading our water, Bill Kergan and Mel Friend were at our door again," she says.

The pair said they were there to make sure the family's cistern had been cleaned out well enough that the water would be safe for the family to drink, says Horn. "Well, Bill went back to his truck, got a gallon of bleach and dumped it in our cistern," she says with a laugh. "He said we wouldn't be able to taste it anymore in a day or two." Horn's other favourite run-in with Kergan was after she received a parking ticket downtown. She headed immediately to the police station to pay it, and joked while she was there that because her car was so small she should only have to pay half the amount. The unamused clerk was telling her she could go to court if she felt that way when Kergan arrived. "I felt this great big hand on my shoulder, turned around and there was Bill, asking how I managed to get a ticket this early in the morning," she says. Horn says Kergan agreed with her assertion that she should only owe half the ticket price, but she was charged the full price anyway. "He was always such a good, friendly person," she says. "He was just a wonderful man."

In 1966, Kergan was appointed director of Preventative Social Services, the first to occupy such a position in the province. He held that position until July 15, 1971, when he retired. Retirement, however, did not last long as Kergan was elected to city council later that year. As an alderman, Ellis says Kergan was always a big supporter of north Lethbridge. "In some circles he became known officially as the mayor of north Lethbridge." Kergan earned the nickname "Burning Barrel Bill" after he successfully fought for the rights of Lethbridge residents to burn garbage in barrels in their backyards.

In addition to his service with the city, Kergan was a two-time president of the Royal Canadian Legion, in 1956 and 1957, and served on the executive of the Canadian Cancer Society both locally and provincially.

Kergan died December 19, 1982 and in 1984 the Bill Kergan Centre, located at the corner of 13 Street North and 2 Avenue North, was opened in his honour. And, his memory lives on in the hearts of those who knew him.

## The Bridge was a True Wonder

Lethbridge apparently possesses one of the “Wonders of the World.” That’s what the Winnipeg Free Press called the High Level Bridge back in 1906, before it was even finished.

“While perhaps not meeting those lofty standards, the bridge is symbolic of the City’s coming of age in the early 1900’s,” says local historian Joe Kadezabec. “It gave the city prominence.”

The bridge is one of the highest and longest types of its kind in the world, measuring 1.6 kilometers long and 96 metres tall. The bridge was also designed to handle Lethbridge’s famous winds. Three-metre-high girders were built on each side to cut crosswinds and prevent rail cars from plunging into the river below.

In 2005 the construction of the High Level Bridge was recognized as a national historical event by the federal government.

“It’s an engineering and surveying marvel,” said Bob Gardner, a retired industrial engineer, in the Lethbridge Herald. “The final piece was dropped into place more than a mile away from the starting point, only an inch or two from the original plans. It was just about perfect.”

Over its history, the landmark has been called by many names, but none perhaps quite as flattering as the Free Press’s moniker. It’s been called the “Big Bridge over the Belly (Oldman) River,” the “Big Bridge” or “Big CPR Bridge,” and the “CPR viaduct” or “Lethbridge Viaduct.”

Whatever people called it, the bridge was not cheap to build: the Canadian Pacific Railway project cost \$1.3 million. As a viaduct, it is a steel bridge comprised of short spans carried on high steel towers. When completed in 1909, 17,090 cubic metres of concrete and 12,436 tons of steel had been used to build the bridge.

The span was built to provide direct access to Fort Macleod and British Columbia. The new route replaced a southerly loop down the Oldman River, and halved the amount of time that trains took to travel to Fort Macleod.

The Canadian Bridge Company of Walkerville, Ontario, was awarded the main contract, following the excavation and substructure work done by John Gunn and Sons of Winnipeg. Surveying was done during the winter of 1906-07, and the first earth was turned the following September. In 1907, 400 men were at work on the bridge. The concrete work, which began two months later, was not completed until February 1909 because of flooding in the riverbed in June 1908 that destroyed a number of piers. The steel work took less than a year, although it was delayed by a strike and cold, breezy winter days.

The work ended on June 22, 1909, when two workmen jumped from the far end of the final girders being placed, beating two other construction workers who were supposed to have had the honour of being first across the bridge.



The bridge officially opened on Oct. 23, 1909. Four months earlier, a group of City and CPR officials rode across the bridge to celebrate its completion. The first full tonnage freight trains crossed the bridge each way likely occurred in late October to early November 1909.

Three men died during the construction of the bridge. One man, Alex (Red) Cleaver, a structural steel worker, dropped 37 metres and survived the fall. He broke both his arms.



*1906 High Level Bridge*

## City Clerk a Demanding Job

Jean Johnstone didn't get much sleep during one particular election night in the 1980's. Johnstone, then an Assistant City Clerk, remembers waiting around on election night in 1983 for a deputy returning officer to show up with a ballot box.

"We waited and waited, and waited," Johnstone explained, since the election couldn't be closed until all the ballot boxes were in. After much searching, the Deputy Returning Officer had gone home -- something he shouldn't have done -- because he thought he could bring the ballots in the next day. "We were in a state, believe me."

The Deputy Returning Officer couldn't seem to balance the number of used and unused ballots, and had taken the box home to figure it out. Voters' ballots were found strewn across his living room floor. "I think I finally went to sleep at 6:30 a.m. the next morning," says Johnstone.



*1917 Chinook Club housed City Hall*

Residents of Lethbridge had last marked a paper ballot in the 1989 election. The City of Lethbridge brought in electronic voting for the next election.

The City Clerk serves as a link between residents and City administration, and among other responsibilities, the Clerk is also the returning officer at election time. While performing their duties, the City Clerk must remain impartial at all times.

The position of Municipal Clerk, an historian of a community, is one of the oldest public service professions. Reference to the role can be traced back to Biblical times.

In Lethbridge, the position dates back more than 100 years to 1891, the same year as the Town's first election.

Mayor Charles Magrath, Lethbridge's first Mayor, indicated that one of his first acts would be to create officers, and the first officer on the list was the Clerk. Following his speech, council appointed W. Spencer as the first Clerk.

"The demands upon the City Clerk have risen substantially over Lethbridge's history," says Dianne Nemeth, the current City Clerk, "because people increasingly want information quickly and no longer simply accept what the Clerk tells them." Nemeth now has a staff of eight employees working with her in the department.

From 1891, Lethbridge's population had increased from 1,478 to 77,202, according to the 2005 census. From 253 bylaws in the original series, the city now has thousands.

The position of City Clerk had been dominated by men until Johnstone became Clerk in 1989. Besides Esther Spencer, who spent just a few months as Clerk in 1914, men occupied the position until Johnstone took over from John Gerla, the longest serving City Clerk, in 1989. When Johnstone became City Clerk, she says many people, including her own father, asked her why she wanted to do "man's work." Johnstone continued as City Clerk until 1996, when Nemeth succeeded her.

"The work never seemed to end," says Johnstone. "For example, as soon as one council meeting ends, I start preparing for the next one. The job is continuous."

In addition to other job requirements, such as knowing legislation and rules of order inside out, acting as Returning Officer and making sure the census is carried out properly, Johnstone says City Clerks must be able to do one more thing. "City clerks must remain impartial at all times. It's a must."

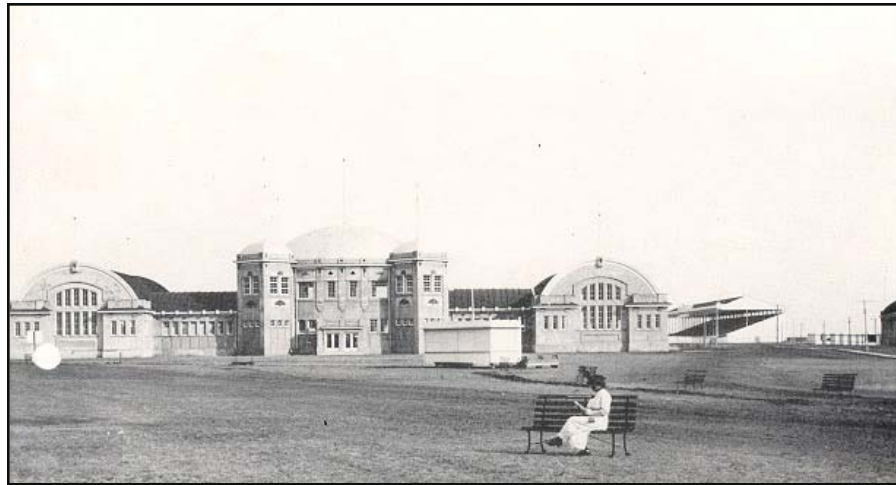
Nemeth adds that, while there are times when she does want to express her opinion on civic matters or simply laugh, she has to hold herself back.

## The First City Managers

The first City Manager had a big job on his hands when he took on the position in 1928. The City of Lethbridge was heavily in debt, and the job of J.T. Watson was to help remedy the situation.

"When Lethbridge agreed to host the seventh annual International Dry-Farming Congress in 1912, the community was fairly small and the infrastructure was in an early stage of development," says Greg Ellis, Archivist at the Galt Museum. "With 5,000 delegates coming from all over the world for the conference, the City felt it was important for the community to upgrade its facilities."

Lethbridge's leaders announced plans to spend \$1.35 million on improvements, including the construction of a streetcar system and upgrading the roads, streets, and water and sewer treatment facilities. The Exhibition grounds and buildings, alone, cost some \$250,000 alone to upgrade.



*1911 Exhibition Buildings*

"There were a lot of public works programs going on in Lethbridge in 1912, costing an enormous amount of money," says Ellis. "Lethbridge was in the middle of a boom, but the tax base in 1912 was not large enough to accommodate all of this growth all at once." The City's population at the time of the fair was about 8,000. Ellis adds, "The long and short of the story is that the municipal government of the day wracked up an enormous debt to host the Dry-farming Congress."

In order to better manage the situation, the City brought in a commissioner form of government in 1914, with three commissioners overseeing City activities. Under the strong, decisive leadership of Mayor William Hardie, City officials tried to slash the municipal budget to attempt to reduce the debt. The Streetcar Department budget, for example, was cut drastically. "That was the first attempt to bring that financial crisis under control, and it simply didn't work all that well," says Ellis.

In 1927, the City held a plebiscite to approve a change to the alderman-manager system of government we have today. City officials wanted to bring in one person who had the "skill and acumen" to organize the municipal government, and could deal with the financial crisis. As Ellis explains, "They finally decided that they needed one strong person in a position of authority, and that's the major reason why they adopted the city manager form of government." The managerial style of government has worked reasonably well ever since.

Former Mayor Alfred William Shackelford ranked the switch to a new managerial government system as the most significant event that shaped the City, because it resulted in tighter control of the mill rate and taxation and ensured proper checks and balances were in place for sound decision-making.

## Lethbridge Mayors Each Left a Legacy

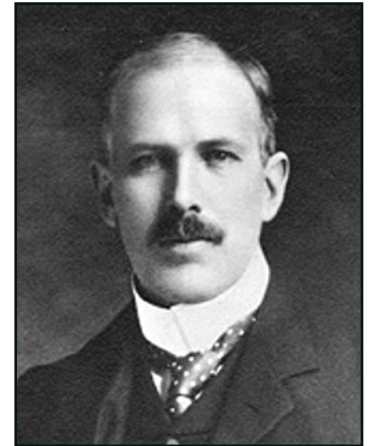
From its founding in the late 1800's, Lethbridge's mayors have all left something a little unique behind.

"Their legacies have all been different," said Jean Johnstone, a former city clerk.

Magrath played a pivotal role in the founding of Lethbridge. One of the main goals of the board of trade, of which Magrath had been elected president, was to press for Lethbridge's incorporation as a town. Magrath also had drawn up the town plan and its boundaries.

After the town was incorporated, the Lethbridge Hotel, where the board of trade had been founded, hosted the town's first ever municipal election on Feb. 2, 1891. Magrath was acclaimed as mayor, and six councillors were elected from the 14 people seeking a seat on council.

But Magrath, land commissioner for the Galt company, did not seek re-election partially because his employer didn't want him splitting time between two jobs. His term lasted 331 days.



*Charles Alexander Magrath*

Harry Bentley took over as mayor the next year and held the position during five of the next seven years. It was not an easy time to be mayor in the early 1890's because a depression had hit the world during that time. The Galt mining company had financial problems, and the coal mines were hit with closures and layoffs.

"Town growth practically ceased," said Alex Johnston in a brief history of Lethbridge's mayors through the mid 1980's. "It was only during Bentley's 1897-1898 time in office that things began to pick up, interest began to be shown in settlement of the region, and the Galt company irrigation project once again became feasible."

It was during the administrations of Mayors Frank Hamilton Mewburn and William Oliver that the first waterworks and sewage disposal system were secured.

In 1906, a year after Alberta became a province, Lethbridge became a city when George Rogers was mayor.

Dr. Walter Stuart Galbraith worked to improve residents' health. During his one year as mayor, the first public health bylaw was drawn up, and he made Lethbridge residents more aware of public health issues such as a garbage collection service.

Prostitution was also an issue that concerned the civic leaders, and it seems Galbraith and council settled the prostitution issue by allowing it to occur in a segregated area called "The Point," said Johnston.

William Henderson, the city's next mayor, has a park named after him for good reason, having played a key role in the development of the park system. He died in office in December 1909, but his plans for Henderson Lake and the Exhibition grounds were carried on by the next two mayors, Elias Adams and George Hatch.

The city got itself heavily into debt when civic funds were plowed into improvements to impress the thousands of delegates from all over the world who attended the seventh annual International Dry-Farming congress held in Lethbridge in 1912.

The next mayor, William Hardie, attempted to do something about this debt. He was a decisive man and unafraid to make unpopular decisions in the best interests of the city. He started to cut and slash at the city budget, and brought in the commissioner system of civic administration to try to alleviate the financial mess. Despite having to make tough choices, he served as mayor from 1913 until 1928.

Under Hardie, the waterworks and sewage systems were improved to fight off a typhoid epidemic in 1916, and he backed efforts to bring a mail service to Lethbridge.

Robert Barrowman didn't have an easy time of it during most of his time in office, having being in charge during the bleak years of the Great Depression, which began in 1929.

Barrowman and council received many applications for relief during the depression. These applications for financial help were regular agenda items until 1940, a year into the Second World War.

## Lethbridge Mayors Cont.

"Barrowman, like Bentley before him, was a survivor and presided over the darkest days of the sorriest economic debacle in Lethbridge history," wrote Johnston.

But the economy did get better, thankfully for David Horton Elton, who became mayor in 1935, serving until 1943.

Alfred William Shackleford had a profound impact on Lethbridge's development, said Johnston. He played a large role in the professionalizing of the police force, the closing of the segregated area, and helped to set up an rehabilitation centre and a seniors lodge.

"Single-handedly, he dragged an old fashioned city administration kicking and screaming into the 20th century," Johnston wrote.

Shackleford had split time in office with three other mayors between the time he was first elected in 1944 and his last year in 1961.

In 1961, residents decided that they wanted to elect the mayor themselves, instead of allowing the seven aldermen to do that for them.

A year later, Frank Sherring was the first mayor to be elected by citizens at large.

When Sherring was mayor, the westside was beginning to become a reality, as land was being assembled for West Lethbridge.

That same year, the number of aldermen seats on council rose to eight from six, giving Lethbridge its current nine-member council, including the mayor.

Sherring's resignation paved the way for Andrew Anderson to take over. He is Lethbridge's longest serving mayor, finally retiring in 1986.

During his tenure, he saw the westside expand, the university established, parks development, downtown redevelopment and railway relocation.

"His success lay in a deliberate attempt to be non-controversial, to marshal all the facts, to reach a consensus in council, and then to persuade voters of the correctness of the action," wrote Johnston.

Anderson, who was given a warm send off when he left office, endorsed his successor, David Carpenter, a veteran alderman. Perhaps he had learned a thing or two from Anderson because Carpenter also had a long tenure, presiding as mayor from 1986 to 2001.

With a background in accounting, Carpenter steered the corporation through some rough financial times during the 1990's, said Johnstone.

Like Carpenter, Bob Tarleck, currently in his second term as mayor, was an alderman before becoming mayor. Tarleck has strong people skills and enjoys attending functions on behalf of the city, said Johnstone.

Tarleck's 2004 re-election campaign focused upon building a strong economy, a commitment to equitable social policies, strong support for the environment, and respect for cultural values.



*Mayor David Carpenter*

## The Short and Storied Life of Coal Banks

It was a substance created millions of years ago that first attracted settlers to the community now known as Lethbridge. The foundations of Lethbridge were built on coal, formed in the Cretaceous period some 70 million years ago, according to an authoritative history of Lethbridge written by Alex Johnston and Andy A. den Otter.

One of the original names of Lethbridge, not surprisingly, reflects the early history of coal. The settlement was known as Coal Banks in those early days (a loose translation of the Blackfoot name for the locale). The Place of Black Rocks, because of the many coal outcroppings found in the area. The name condensed to Coalbanks between 1882 and 1885.

It was in October 1874 that Nicholas Sheran, an Irish-American adventurer, opened the first commercial coal mine in the region near the Belly River, now known as the Oldman River.



*Late 1800's Higinbotham Drug Store & Lethbridge Hotel*

Sheran had come to the area with his sister, Marcella, and she kept house for him in 1877. She left in July 1878 to get married. Sheran met Mary Brown (Awatoyakew), a Peigan woman, in the fall of 1878 on a trip to Fort Macleod. Sheran and Brown soon began living together in a cabin in Coalbanks. As a result, the small community was sometimes referred to as Sherans, or Sheran's Ferry. Sheran, in addition to operating a ferry, had a small-scale coal operation.

Brown gave birth to Lethbridge's first child, Charles Sheran, on Feb. 24, 1880. In November 1882 their son, William, was born. Sheran drowned in May 1882 and never saw his second child.

The Galt Mining Company exploited the area's coal in the early 1880's after it became known that the railway was going further south than anticipated. Despite some bumps along the track, Sir Alexander Galt secured a generous government subsidy for a narrow-gauge railway to Dunmore, on the Canadian Pacific Railway main line near Medicine Hat. This allowed the company to broaden its coal markets across Western Canada, reaching as far as Winnipeg.

Construction on the narrow-gauge railway began in the fall of 1884 and was completed the following summer. On August 25, 1885 the first train rolled into Coalbanks.

The name of the community officially became Lethbridge less than three months later, a name that again reflects its coal roots. William Lethbridge was a major investor in the coal mining operation that gave the community its start.

Coalbanks became Lethbridge in October 1885 after the residents of the community petitioned the post office in Ottawa for the name change to Lethbridge. Coalbanks was the official name, but locals seldom used it. The post office had resisted the name change because Lethbridge was the name of locales in two other provinces; Newfoundland and Labrador, and in Ontario as well. But on October 15, the postal service gave in and changed the name.

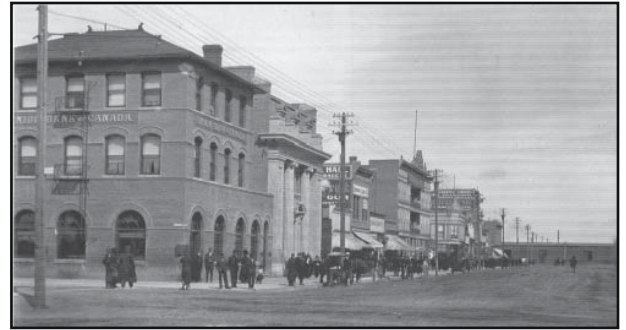
From a population of just 30 in 1882, the settlement grew to 1,000 residents by 1885.

## Downtown Lethbridge

In today's era of looking forward, it seems odd that the city would do just the opposite when planning for the revitalization of Lethbridge's downtown core.

But looking back, planning based on the historical look of downtown buildings, is just what the city and downtown business owners want to do. As part of revitalization efforts, many of Lethbridge's historic downtown buildings are being restored to their former glory rather than being made-over or redesigned.

Numerous projects have already been completed in the downtown, and several more facelifts are currently being done.



*1939 Round Street*

On 5th Street South - formerly known as Round Street - three major projects are underway. The Union Bank building, located on the southwest corner of 5th Street and 3rd Avenue, is under renovation. The historic landmark building is receiving new windows and the second- and third-floor apartment spaces are being renovated. The main floor will soon house Express Coffee.

A few doors down, the Empire Land Co. building is getting a facelift. Many of the original interior details of the building, such as ornately detailed pressed-metal ceilings, have been exposed and restored. The stucco applied over the original brick facade has been removed and a new storefront and windows will soon be finished.

Finally, the Alec Arms Hotel has been gutted and is being renovated to provide safe and affordable housing to the community, as well as new retail spaces which will be added to the main floor.

With the renovation of numerous living spaces on the upper floors of many of the downtown's heritage buildings, the Downtown Business Revitalization Zone hopes to create a new neighbourhood where residential, commercial and entertainment all combine.

Many of Lethbridge's downtown building renovations are done with help from the Alberta Main Street Program, of which Lethbridge has been a part since 2000. Initiated in 1987 by the provincial government, the program provides funding and expertise on revitalization and historic preservation.

Of course, the buildings themselves are not the only places within the downtown to see improvements. The Downtown Redevelopment Steering Committee has been busy with a number of initiatives designed to change the face of downtown.

The committee partnered with the Downtown BRZ to commission local artist Jason Trotter to create four murals for the area. Two of the murals are finished, one of Chief Crowfoot on the southeast wall of the Lethbridge Hotel on 5th Street and the other of the first Canadian Air Mail plane as flown by Capt. Jock Carpenter of Lethbridge on the south-facing wall of the Streets Alive building on 4th Street. All of the murals will be historically-themed.

More bike racks, an information/poster kiosk and a Victorian clock are also being installed near the entrance to the Southern Alberta Art Gallery.

Galt Gardens is another area slated for some major upgrades. Spearheaded by Lethbridge's Rotary Clubs, the multi-million dollar revitalization is scheduled to take place in phases and will include the addition of a pond, centre promenade and new contouring and redesign.

In addition, the city's Heart of Our City Master Plan program is underway. The initiative is designed to elicit input from the public and key stakeholders to create a common vision for the downtown area.

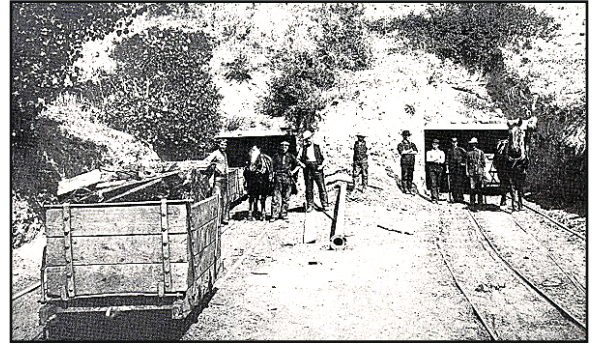
Intended to be finalized by May 2007, the program will create a plan for the area, as well as guidance for implementation.

## Galt Mines

It's not much of a stretch to say that without the Galt family, there might not be a Lethbridge.

Elliott Galt, assistant to the Indian Commissioner, first saw the coal of Lethbridge (or Coalbanks, as it was then known) in 1879 on an inspection visit to the area. On his visit, he met a man named Nicholas Sheran, who had been mining on a small scale for five years.

Although Galt didn't do anything with the information at the time, he did tell his father, Sir Alexander Galt, about the coal outcropping on the Belly (Oldman) River. Two years later, when the Canadian Pacific Railway, still under construction, took a more southerly route than expected, Sir Alexander pounced on the opportunity to develop the resource.



*Galt Mine Shafts 1 & 2*

Sir Alexander, a prominent Montreal promoter and a Father of Confederation, had high profile contacts and found investors -- wealthy ones -- for the coal company.

The investors included William H. Smith, of booksellers W.H. Smith & Son, and William Lethbridge, a close friend of Smith, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the venture. American William Ashmead Bartlett Burdett-Coutts, having recently married England's richest widow, was also among the wealthy investors. Other prominent investors from Great Britain and Canada soon joined.

In the summer of 1881 Sir Alexander hired a Nova Scotia mining engineer, Captain Nicholas Bryant, to prospect for coal, and he found several large deposits of usable coal. Another survey had also suggested there were large deposits in the area. Armed with this evidence, Galt gathered a group of investors and incorporated the North Western Coal and Navigation Company, Limited.

The company had five southern Alberta locations in mind, and a party including Bryant and William Stafford was sent out to investigate each one to determine the best site. They quickly eliminated three locations because of poor coal quality. The decision came down to two sites: Coalbanks on the Belly (Oldman) River and the Blackfoot Crossing on the Bow River.

Later that summer, Sir Alexander and Elliott Galt visited both places and eventually chose Coalbanks because it had superior coal and because the area had better potential to become a large colony, according to an authoritative Lethbridge history written by local historian Alex Johnston and Andy A. den Otter.

In October 1882, Galt's company had decided to open draft mine shafts at the coal banks where the best coal was located. By December of that year, miners were taking coal from the mines.

"Coal is the reason why there is a community here at all, and the Galts are the key to bringing the coal above ground," says Greg Ellis, archivist at the Galt Museum. "It was the Galts who established coal mining in the area. It was the Galts who understood that railways were the key to transporting that coal to market, and it was the Galts who brought in the settlers needed to buy the land they had accumulated."

However, investors had a problem with the Coalbanks site: it was 175 miles away from the proposed CPR main line. The Galts tried to solve the transportation problem by using steamers and barges, but that proved to be unsuccessful.

Sir Alexander did not give up easily, and he secured a generous government subsidy for a narrow-gauge railway to Dunmore on the CPR main line near Medicine Hat. He also managed to convince his London backers to invest at a time when the economy was in a slump. Construction on the narrow-gauge began in the fall of 1884 and was completed the following summer.

## Galt Mines

A narrow-gauge railway line was built, with the first train arriving in Coalbanks on August 25, 1885. The Town was renamed Lethbridge on October 15, 1885. The North Western Coal and Navigation Company produced 20,865 tonnes of coal in its first year of operation.

A second narrow-gauge line to Montana followed in 1890 after the Galts had persuaded Parliament to cancel the CPR's monopoly on lines going south. After a prosperous year in 1893, however, coal production fell off, as did sales. This situation lasted until 1898 when output reached 152,643 tonnes, increasing to 215,000 tonnes in 1905.

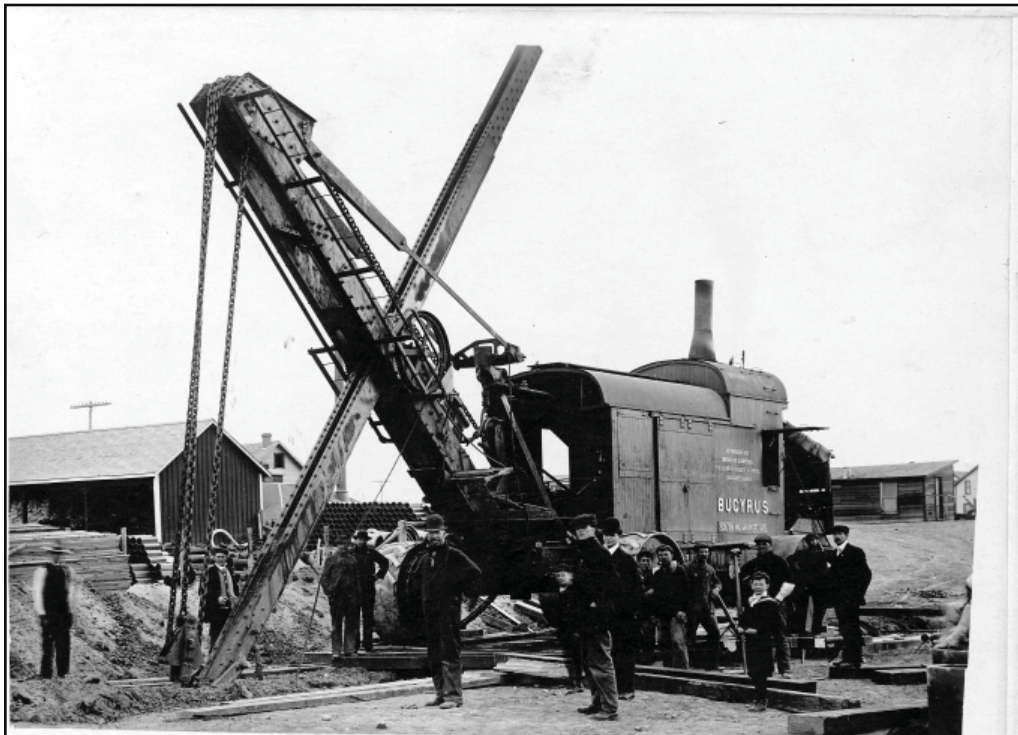
When Sir Alexander died in Montreal in 1893, it was left to Elliott to manage the companies the Galts had set up to exploit the coal, build railways and construct irrigation systems. Elliott gave up active management of the Galt companies in 1905 due to ill health. The Galts continued to operate in southern Alberta for 30 years until 1912, when they sold out to the CPR.

"The Galts really didn't make any money off the coal because their only customer at the time was the railway," says Ellis, "If you're in a one-customer relationship, your customer has a lot of power to set the price, which the CPR obviously recognized and exercised."

Ellis says the company also had its fair share of labour problems, including a strike in 1906 that saw 500 workers walk off the job. "There never seemed to be an extended period of time when labour and management workers got along in a really comfortable way," he said. "There always seemed to be tension. There were periodic strikes and, taken together, all these factors made coal mining very unattractive."

Coal production peaked during World War 1, when 2,000 miners in 10 large mines extracted 1 million tonnes of coal a year. The coal industry gradually declined after 1919 with the development of oil and natural gas resources.

The last mine at Lethbridge, Galt No. 8, closed in 1957, and the entire industry collapsed when the mine at Shaughnessy closed in 1965. There were nine Galt mine entrances in all, although only a few were productive.



## Blazing a Trail

It seems unlikely that the 1953 flood of the Oldman River valley would be the catalyst for modernization of the Lethbridge Fire Department's equipment.

But that's exactly what happened, recalls long-time firefighter Walter Willetts.

Willetts wasn't even yet a member of the force in 1953 when the departments chain-driven pumper units were placed in the river valley to pump flood water from the residences located there. That assignment proved to be the end for many of the department's pumpers. "It beat them up pretty bad," says Willetts. "There was a lot of sand and silt in the water."

Chief William Short, who served some 50 years with the Lethbridge Fire Department and was the first chief Willetts worked under, replaced one of the pumpers with a La France Sparton Pumper. Willetts, who started in 1955, remembers well the open-cab model. "It was a frigid winter ride," he says. "Especially riding on the back. Some men had to ride on the back deck."

Short subsequently purchased several other La France Sparton units to modernize the department's response vehicles. During this time the 100-foot aerial ladder was also introduced.

During his 35-year career with the Lethbridge Fire Department, Willetts worked under Chiefs Short, Russell, Holberton, Dzuren and Wickersham, all men he remembers with much respect.

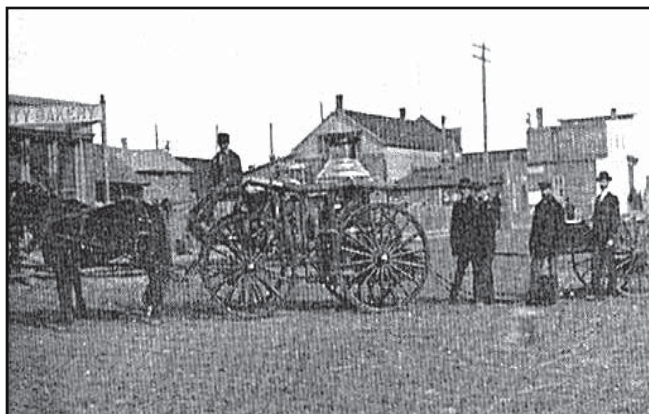
Willetts also worked from all four of Lethbridge's current fire stations during his career. In fact, he was on duty for the first shift at the #3 Fire Station on 16 Avenue South as well as the opening of the West Side station.

Known as the #2 Station, Willetts says the West Side station waited a long time for that permanent location. The station was originally created when a section of railway housing was moved to the site northwest of the old Catelli pasta factory, where Centre Village Mall today sits. It was intended to serve as a temporary firehall for what was then known as the North Ward. That temporary firehall remained there for 40 years before other plans were developed for the land.

The Lethbridge Fire Department has run as a joint fire and ambulance service for almost as long as it has existed. Volunteer fire brigades provided protection from 1886 to 1909, when the department was organized.

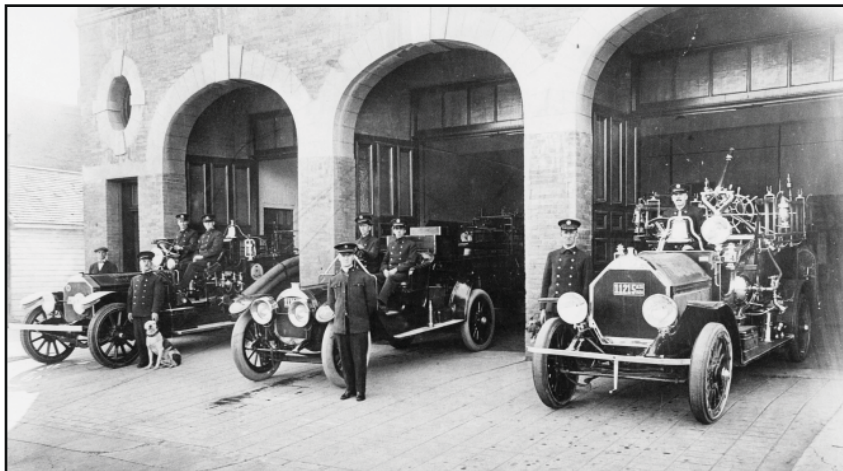


*1985 Ronald Steam Engine  
pumping water from an underground tank in the square*



*1886 Hand Drawn Fire Truck*

## Blazing a Trail



Willetts says the Lethbridge Fire Department's progressive shift scheduling has also been replicated across the country. Following World War II the force ran on 24-hour shifts forming a 40-hour work week. However, it eventually changed to a 10-hour and 14-hour shift, meaning firefighters work two 10-hour day shifts followed by two 14-hour night shifts. "That's pretty standard all over the country now," says Willetts. "But we were one of the first ones to go with that."

There have also been several changes and innovations within the department that Willetts had a direct hand in.

In the late 1960's, Willetts was the representative of the Lethbridge Fire Fighters Association who, working with representatives from Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Red Deer, helped get the Fire Fighters and Policeman's Labour Relation Act passed into law.

Willetts also represented the force in numerous grievance and salary arbitrations over the years.

In 1967, Willetts served as writer and presenter of the first-ever televised First Aid Course in Canada. Working with the St. John Ambulance Society, CJHL Television and Hunt Insurance, the Lethbridge firefighters put together the program.

Willetts recalls the Lethbridge Municipal Hospital provided personnel to do blood circulation lectures. While it was the only one Lethbridge ever did, Willetts is still proud to report that some 400 southern Albertans earned First Aid certificates from the presentation.

While the behind-the-scenes work was important, nothing occupies Willetts's memory more than doing battle with an out-of-control blaze. Willetts recalls in particular one evening December 4, 1967 when the El Rancho Hotel and nearby Pyramid Motors went up in flames. "I always remember one fellow came running outside the building and said, 'We got it, it's out,' and we told him 'Yeah, it's out. . . of control,' says Willetts. "The hotel burned nearly to the ground before crews got the blaze under control."

Willetts recalls another hotel fire - this time the Garden Hotel, located once upon a time along 3 Avenue South near 5 Street. "The hotel had a popular bar in it," he recalls. But it's not the fire itself Willetts remembers from this occasion as much as the fellows who owned a warehouse next door to the hotel. While firefighters were battling the blaze, "these boys kept asking if we could go in and see if everything was all right (in their warehouse)," says Willetts. Happily, the department was able to spare the warehouse any damage.



*1914 Municipal Building & Fire Hall*

## Little House on the Flood Plain

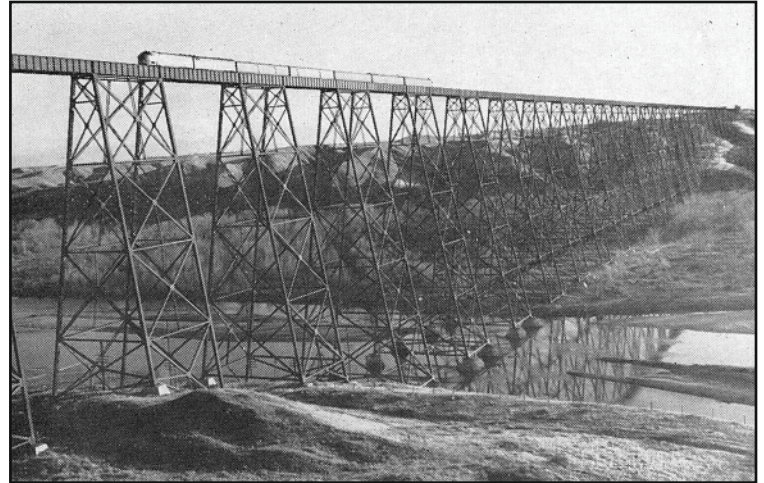
One can't blame Esther Horn for refusing to go watch the Oldman River flood its banks in 1995.

The "flood" of memories that accompanied the disaster was more than enough for Horn, now 85.

Horn was one of the people living in the river bottom when the Oldman raged through the valley, in June of 1953.

"People wondered why I wouldn't go look at it," Horn says of the 1995 flood. "But I did not go look."

Horn, who was then Esther Bodell, her husband and four children were living in a small house just north of where the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre stands today, up against the coulee side, in 1953.



*1954 Train Bridge*

Describing it as more a shack than anything, Horn says the family bought the house for \$175. Horn remembers the water rose quickly one day, spilling over the banks of the river, then receded again, leaving them all to breathe a sigh of relief. She recalls vividly when the water rose again that June.

"The second time it came up the Mounties were down there with a boat getting people off the island," she says. "My husband spent the night with them on the river because he knew the river and they didn't."

Once the rescue mission was completed, Horn says the people were brought to her house to warm up before being taken up to the city. The water receded again after that, she said, but the worst was yet to come.

When the water levels again began to climb closer and closer to their house, Horn says the family put a stake out to monitor how high the water was getting.

"Every few hours we had to wade out and move it again," she says.

The entire community was evacuated, the Mounties arriving at Horn's door as she was having a cup of coffee.

"I said I was having a cup of coffee first and he said, 'no way,' " recalls Horn.

Without any time to load their belongings, Horn says she grabbed what clothes were hanging on her clothesline on the way out.

"I pulled the clothes off the line and walked through the water away." Horn and her family stayed for three days with another family in Lethbridge.

Fortunately for the family, their home was situated higher than many of the folks who were then living in the small community which had been established in the river bottom."

"We were higher than most people," she says. "We only got (water) in the basement. One house had it clean up to the top of the windows." Yet another floated away, she says.

Still, the water filled the basement, and only a few inches more would have put it in the living room, says Horn. Horn lost all of her pictures and school books which were stored in the basement and their sons' bedroom, located in the basement, was destroyed.

When the family moved back into their home (about a week before city officials cleared it) Horn says they put bunks in the living room to accommodate the children.

## Little House on the Flood Plain

"A lot of people were out (of their homes) 10 days," says Horn. "They waited until it was legal to move back in." Because their home suffered less damage than many others, Horn says the Salvation Army used it as a depot to hand out mattresses, bedding and other necessities to others who'd lost everything in the flood.

The entire river bottom community also used the family's cistern to get water the city paid for the water in exchange for the family allowing everyone access to it.

It took about six weeks before most folks were able to get cleaned up enough to keep their own water, Horn says.

Ironically, Horn says the river bottom community had only received electricity a few months earlier.

"We never had electricity down there until the fall of 1952, she says. We all paid \$100 to put the electrical lines in."

Shortly after the clean-up was complete, the city ordered everyone to move out of the river valley. While some folks started moving right away, Horn and her family stayed until the end of August. The family moved up onto 16 Street North, digging their own basement and mixing their own cement before moving their house out of the river bottom and onto the foundation.

Shortly afterwards, Horn says the neighbours began complaining about having the river bottom shanties in their neighbourhood.

After a few months the city moved all the former river bottom folk onto 21 Street North now Mayor Magrath Drive North where they lived until 1960, when the construction of the CPR underpass forced them out.

Esther and her family moved into a home on 2 Avenue A North in April 1960. Horn and her second husband (her first died in 1973) still live there today.

"And I'd like to be here forever," she says.

Horn recalls with fondness her days as a "river rat," noting the community had dances at a hall located in the valley and the Salvation Army came down to teach Sunday school to the children.

One of the difficulties, she recalls, was pushing a baby carriage up and down the coulee hill to get to town.

"And the hardest thing I ever did was send my son to school," she says. "The school was where the library is now. Imagine a six-year-old walking up that hill all alone."



*1995 Flood*

## Fort Whoop Up

Fort Whoop-Up Interpretive Centre owes its roots to a centennial celebration that happened long before Lethbridge was turning 100. The centre, which celebrates and recognizes the history of Southern Alberta before Lethbridge even existed, originated as a Canada centennial project in 1967.

"The Lethbridge Kinsmen Club began, in 1965, to entertain the idea of the Whoop-Up Country Historical Park," says Doran Degenstein, director and curator at the Fort.

"There's a notice of motion from December 1965 to proceed with the concept of the Whoop-Up Country Historical Park," says Degenstein. Bob Parkyn, co-chair with the Kinsmen at the time, recalls the club wanted to build the park to celebrate Canada's centennial.



1870 Fort Whoop Up

The club received a centennial grant from the federal government and some money from the city, then set about raising the rest of the \$75,000 cost of the project.

Originally located where the Whoop-Up Bridge now spans the coulee, the park included an interpretive reconstruction of the fort as well as an operating mine train to honour the area's coal mining history.

Construction on the project began in mid-1966. Parkyn recalls the Kinsmen Club members did a lot of the work themselves after having a Canadian Pacific Railway employee advise them on how to put in the train track. "We had work parties putting the track in," he says. "We did it all by hand." Club members also built a cement tunnel and inmates from the Lethbridge Correctional Centre were enlisted to cut lumber and make the logs look authentic to the time period.

With much fanfare, the park officially opened July 1, 1967, during Canada's centennial.

Besides many attending dignitaries, Degenstein says the opening ceremonies included a 100-gun salute and a bus service was put in place to accommodate the 3,000-plus in the audience.

The Kinsmen Club successfully ran the park for several years before turning it over to the city. In April 1980 the Whoop-Up Country Interpretive Society, now the Fort Whoop-Up Interpretive Society, signed a pact with the city to run the centre.



## Galt Gardens Always a Gathering Place

As the green jewel in Lethbridge's downtown crown, Galt Gardens has been a gathering place for many Lethbridge residents over the years.

A place to listen to some music, take in an art exhibition or just grab a quick lunch in the sunshine, Galt Gardens has remained the oasis for Lethbridge residents its namesake, Elliot Torrance Galt, envisioned when he set the land aside in 1885.

When Galt, son of Sir Alexander Galt, founder of the North West Coal and Navigation Company, began sketching a simple grid system of streets and acres, envisioning the Lethbridge town site, he set aside a 10-acre parcel of land, which he designated as a park.



*Blackfoot at Galt Gardens*

Known as The Square, then The Public Square, the 10-acre section quickly became the customary gathering place for sports activities such as football, cricket and baseball. One of the most famous of these activities was a baseball game between Calgary and Lethbridge held in The Square in January 1906.

The weather was warm enough that coats were not needed as some 800 people watched Lethbridge cruise to a 13-1 victory.

In 1908 Galt, expressing wishes that the site remain a park, gave the package of land to the city, excluding a 200-square-foot reserve in the centre. In 1909, the park was named for Galt.



*1917 Galt Gardens*

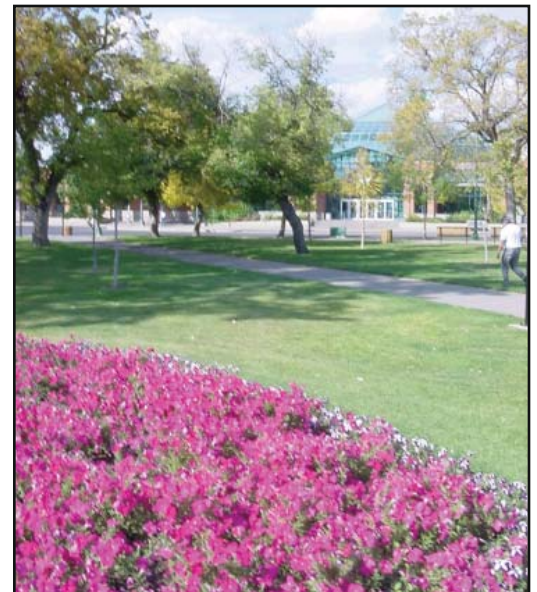
Eventually a bandstand was added and a dozen iron benches were placed throughout the park. Later, a library (now home to the Southern Alberta Art Gallery) was built and flower beds, walkways and trees were added.

In the 1960's, however, the park lost some of its lustre as the downtown core became a hangout for the homeless. The city, recognizing citizen complaints about panhandling and similar behavioural problems, tightened some bylaws governing park use.

Today city council continues to examine similar problems with an eye towards ensuring Lethbridge has a vibrant and busy downtown core.

Galt Gardens remains a beautiful park space, with annual activities ranging from live music to flea markets, children's festivals to car shows.

Plans are also in the works to rejuvenate Lethbridge's downtown park space. The Lethbridge Rotary Club is partnering with the city on plans to revitalize the area.



## High School Had a Rocky Start in Lethbridge

To see Lethbridge's thriving high schools today, it's hard to believe the City's original high school was almost shut down due to lack of attendance.

In 1894 the School District (which became the Lethbridge Public School District No. 51) passed a motion to close the high school unless attendance could be guaranteed from 15 pupils. Fortunately, the students decided to show up and by 1902 more classroom space was needed. A four-room addition was built onto Central School at 5 Avenue and 9 Street South, which was housing the high school department.

In 1909 the first Central School was demolished, a second Central School was built on the same site.

High school finally found its own home, moving into the vacated Manual Training building along 5 Avenue South.

The building served Lethbridge's high school students until 1927 when overcrowding and deteriorating building conditions forced the school board to seek out money to build a new high school. After several failed attempts by the board to convince the city's ratepayers to contribute money for a new high school, such a bylaw was finally passed that year.

In February 1928, sod was turned for the construction of the Lethbridge Collegiate at 4 Avenue and 15 Street South. The school opened in October 1928 with 13 classrooms operating and an enthusiastic student body which even built their own skating rink on the grounds.

On May 24, 1929 a fire broke out in the new school, causing considerable damage and forcing classes to be relocated to the Bowman School and St. Patrick's School. On Sept. 13, 1929 the rebuilt Lethbridge Collegiate was formally opened.

By 1931 the school was again bursting at the seams as more and more students arrived. At the time the school was servicing all high school students in city limits and added courses to the curriculum further stretched the building's capabilities to house the students.

In 1933, the boy's Technical and girl's Domestic Science classes were moved to an old dairy building on 13 Street North.

It wasn't until 1946, however, that plans were made for a new high school. The new Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, located on 5 Avenue South between 16 and 18 Streets, was opened on Nov. 22, 1950. The school population continued to increase rapidly and in 1956 an 18-room addition was built onto the school. In 1969 another large addition was added.

North Lethbridge was also growing rapidly in the 1950's, when LCI was operating at capacity serving all high school students. In 1959 the public school district set about securing land at 9 Avenue and 20 Street North for a new junior-senior high school. Construction on Winston Churchill High School began in 1960 and official opening ceremonies were held Jan. 19, 1961. A space crunch again had the board looking for a new school site in 1965. Land was found along 15 Avenue North between 16 and 19 Streets. A new Winston Churchill High School was built, and the former building became Wilson Junior High (now Wilson Middle School). High school classes were moved to the new building April 11, 1968. Small additions were built onto the school in 1969 and 1973.

Today Winston Churchill still boasts V-shaped cement abutments along its front, meant to symbolize the "V" for victory sign Winston Churchill made famous during World War II.

The history of Lethbridge's public high schools was compiled with notes from Audrey Baines' book Lethbridge School District No. 51, The First 100 Years, From Cottage to Composite.

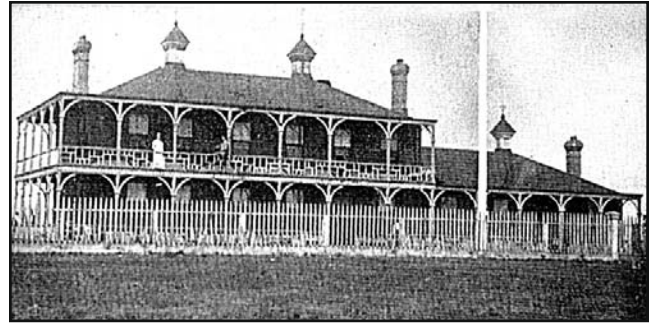


*1891-1909 Central School*

## Lethbridge Hospital History

It may not have been built until 1988, but Doug Schindeler likes to think the history of the Lethbridge Regional Hospital goes back to 1891.

The 1910 Galt Hospital building was constructed with matching contributions from Elliot T. Galt and the City of Lethbridge. In 1913 control of the Galt Hospital was transferred to the City of Lethbridge. When the Municipal Hospital was completed in 1955, the Galt building ceased to be a hospital.



*1891 Galt Hospital*

"It's like your grandfather's axe," says Schindeler, a member of the Chinook Health Authority board. "The handle has been replaced four times, the head has been replaced two times but it's still the original axe, as the saying goes."

The regional hospital, as we know it today, came to be June 24, 1988 and was occupied that fall. Built as a 320-bed facility the province immediately reduced the bed count to 264 - construction costs were an impressive \$118 million.

"At the time, it was the largest single contract issued in southern Alberta," says Schindeler. By comparison, the municipal hospital was built for \$2.3 million. The size equivalent to about 500 residential homes, the Lethbridge Regional Hospital is built over four city blocks including parking and the auxiliary site.

Prior to the hospital's construction, however, was a lengthy debate about the previous Municipal Hospital and its neighbour, St. Michael's Hospital.

The Municipal Hospital was built in 1955 and St. Michael in 1929, with expansions up to 1960, says Schindeler. The provincial Department of Health had a structural evaluation done on both buildings only to discover both needed substantial upgrades to be better-functioning and meet current building codes. It was decided that renovation was not feasible, and it made no sense to rebuild two 200-bed hospitals only a few blocks away from each other.

With community loyalties for both hospitals, Schindeler says emotions ran high during the debate and it was ultimately decided to re-build the municipal hospital and redesign St. Mike's to serve as a long-term care facility.



*1955 Municipal Hospital*

## The Story of St. Mike's

To look at St. Michael's Health Centre today, it's hard to believe it all started with two nuns and a building. But the centre, and the former St. Michael's Hospital, had the humble beginnings of just that - a building and the strong faith of the nuns who came to Lethbridge to start a hospital.

The entire process, says Jan Foster, title, began in 1928 when Bishop John T. Kidd, Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary, invited the Sisters of St. Martha to travel to Lethbridge to look into establishing the first Catholic General Hospital in the Canadian West.



*1954 St. Michael Hospital*

The Sisters of St. Martha motherhouse was located in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, so Mother Ignatius and Mother Faustina made the long journey west to Lethbridge. Upon their return to Nova Scotia, they regaled their sisters with "glowing tales of their travels and of all that can be done for God and souls in the West." Needless to say, they were convinced to accept Bishop Kidd's invitation to open a hospital in Lethbridge.

The project got started on May 1, 1929 at 2 a.m. when Sister Francis Teresa Hergott and Sister Mary Daniel MacLellan, R.N., boarded a westbound train in Antigonish. Ten days later, they wearily stepped off the train in Lethbridge nearly 3,500 kilometres from home. "Imagine," says Foster. "Two nuns got on a train in Nova Scotia by themselves, with full habits on I'm sure, and traveled 10 days on a train to get to Lethbridge."

"It's a really interesting story when you stop to think about what it was probably like here in 1929."

The Sisters took possession of the Van Haarlem Institution on June 1, 1929 and named it St. Michael's General Hospital, in honour of its early staunch supporter and first Board Chairman, Reverend Michael Murphy, o.m.i. The facility, with a capacity of 26 beds, was purchased by the Sisters of St. Martha for \$34,000. Sister Teresa, former superintendent of St. Joseph's Hospital in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, took the position of Superintendent and Sister Mary Daniel, former director of nurses at St. Rita Hospital in Sydney, Nova Scotia, became Nursing Director and Operating Room Supervisor. Soon afterwards, the nuns were joined by four other Sisters from Antigonish. The six nuns ran the hospital together until November 1930, when 27-year-old Sister Dionysius, a native of Malignant Cove, Antigonish County, suddenly died after spinal surgery.

Sister Dionysius became the first St. Martha Nun to be buried in Western Canada. The burial was unusual, says Foster, as most Sisters, if they became ill or died, were returned to their motherhouse for treatment or burial. However, the trend continued and there are four of the original Sisters of St. Martha buried in Lethbridge.

Eventually plans were made for a new hospital. A site was secured and on September 9, 1931, the new 100-bed hospital was officially opened. A small house across the street from the hospital served as a residence for the Sisters in these early years. It could accommodate six to eight Sisters, with one room designated as a Chapel.

Shortly after the hospital opened its doors, the Depression came, crippling the financial resources of the area. Money was scarce, and charges for accommodation at the hospital (\$2.50 per day for a ward room with obstetric patients paying \$5.00 for the use of the delivery room) were often paid with farm produce.

It became common practice to pay for services received at the hospital with potatoes, vegetables, a pig or a chicken. "That helped feed the patients but it didn't help much when (the Sisters) needed the money," says Foster.

Because the Sisters of St. Martha had financed the new hospital (at a total cost of \$360,000) on their own, the financial position of the hospital was soon in jeopardy.

However, faith, courage and perseverance won out, and eventually enough patients were coming in to ensure the hospital's viability. The Sister's of St. Martha had "nursing sisters" on staff at St. Michael's Hospital for as long as it existed, says Foster. "The nuns were there pretty well until it was torn down," she says.

## The Kiwanis Band Left its Mark

It existed for only a little more than a decade, but the Kiwanis Community Band and its leader, Frank Hosek Sr., had a lasting impact on the history of music in Lethbridge. The Kiwanis Community Band was a place where many of Lethbridge's finest musicians today first learned their craft and developed their love for music.

The band was started in the 1960's, says Trish Purkis, assistant archivist for the city, but is actually an offshoot of the Lethbridge Junior Boys Band, which started in 1946. The Junior Band was started when a group of local businessmen, known as the Association of Commercial Travellers – ACT – decided there was a need for it. The ACT provided financial support for the band, which was originally led by Frank Hosek Junior. Hosek Jr. gathered up members for the band – kids aged 10 to 17, and found instruments which had been left at Prisoner of War camp 133 on the city's north side following World War II.



*Lethbridge ACT Junior Band*

But in spring of 1946, six months after starting the band, Hosek Jr. ran into a problem. "He realized all the instruments were German-made and he couldn't convey to the children how to play them," says Purkis. Hosek Jr. asked his father, Frank Hosek Sr., a German immigrant, to take over the band. Hosek Sr. accepted and at the end of 1946, became the leader of the Lethbridge Junior Boys Band. Hosek Jr. went on to start bands in Milk River, Pincher Creek, Cowley and other southern Alberta towns, says Purkis.

The Lethbridge Junior Boys Band and then Lethbridge Junior Band remained named as such until 1960, when the ACT pulled its support. At that time the Kiwanis Club decided to take over the responsibility and the band was renamed the Kiwanis Community Band. In 1962 Purkis began to play for the band and has nothing but fond memories of Hosek Sr. "Frank Hosek Sr. was the driving force for all the kids in the band," she says. "You had to pass a certain number of lesson books before you were admitted to the band proper."

Purkis recalls at least six months of lessons before she was able to start rehearsing with the band. Rehearsals, she recalls, were Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons for two hours apiece. The band practiced in what is now the Red Cross building on 7 Street South. "As I recall it had a wooden floor and all around the outside were cupboards," says Purkis. "We were allowed to keep our instruments there." On Sunday afternoons the band – which was a marching band – would prepare for summer parades by practicing marching. "We'd line up in front of the Red Cross building and start playing," says Purkis. "We'd head east to Henderson Lake and do an impromptu concert there for anyone who was listening."

The band became a familiar Sunday-afternoon sight for motorists travelling 13th Street – the busiest thoroughfare on their route. In fact, 30 to 35 kids and their instruments were usually a cause to halt traffic. "Most of the time when (motorists) heard the music they would stop and let us keep marching," says Purkis.

The Kiwanis Community Band flourished until the early 1970's when music programs became part of school curriculum. As more children began to get their music education in school, interest in the community band waned and it disbanded in the 1970's.

It was more than a decade before the Lethbridge Community Band Society formed in 1987, bringing community band back to Lethbridge. Today the society thrives, with two different bands boasting members from junior high to seniors. Both bands perform various concerts throughout the year. "But we're much older so we don't march anymore," jokes Purkis. Purkis says there is no mistaking the influence Hosek Sr. and his Kiwanis Community Band had on the kids of that time. "In today's community bands there are 12-14 members who were in the Kiwanis band back then," says Purkis.

Other former band members went on to have music careers, either performing or teaching. Purkis herself carried on playing clarinet and credits Hosek Sr. and her eight years with the band for helping instill that love of music into her. "We all really admire Frank Sr. for doing what he did," she says. "He taught so many of us." Today the Lethbridge Community Band society gives out annually the Frank Hosek Band Award to a member who goes above and beyond for the love of music.

The history of the Kiwanis Community Band and much more – right back to 1906 when the first citizens band was started in Lethbridge – is featured in *The Band Book*, written by Purkis in 2000. While a revised edition is in the works, copies of the book are available at the Sir Alexander Galt Museum's gift shop.

## Haunted Hotel?

It would be difficult to find a long-time Lethbridge resident who doesn't have a story about the Marquis Hotel.

Nearly 20 years after the downtown landmark was demolished, the hotel's name regularly pops up in conversations around the city.

Located on the corner of 4th Avenue and 7th Street South, the Marquis was perhaps the premier hotel of its era in Lethbridge.

In early 1927, the Board of Trade commissioned Hockenbury Systems Inc. of Pennsylvania to conduct a feasibility study for a new hotel.



*4th Avenue South*

By August, Lethbridge Community Hotel Ltd. held their first meeting and Hockenbury Systems Inc. had convinced local citizens to invest \$175,000 toward the cost of the hotel. Architect E.T. Brown of Kamloops was hired to design the building, and Bennett and White were the contractors when construction began in October 1927.

The hotel, named Marquis for a variety of wheat, featured 78 guest rooms and a banquet room seating 250. The hotel was expanded in the early 1930's to 90 guest rooms, and a restaurant was added. The Marquis Hotel was officially opened by Lieutenant Governor William Egbert in June 1928, and the first guests were people attending the Alberta Music Festival.

Over the years, just about every celebrity who visited Lethbridge stayed at the Marquis Hotel. That continuing stream of high-profile visitors, combined with the hotel's prime downtown location, restaurant and bar led to no shortage of talk about the hotel - either sightings or happenings near or within it.

Perhaps one of the most talked-about residents of the hotel is one who may - or may not - have even been there. Over the years a ghost was said to have made the Marquis her haunting grounds.

Named Mathilda by a hotel employee, the female apparition was said to haunt room 327.

"It's one of those stories where there's no history to back it up, but there's a lot of good stories about it," said Belinda Crowson, program director for the Sir Alexander Galt Museum.

While some say Mathilda was murdered in room 327, others prefer the grisly story that a young woman went there for backroom surgery which went horribly wrong. When the practitioner realized he had killed her, the tale goes, he panicked, chopped up the body and smuggled the remains out of the hotel in bags.

Crowson notes there are no police reports from that era about a murder or missing person in Lethbridge. Still, tales circulated from employees about elevators which would travel from the third floor to the lobby, only to open and be empty. Because the hotel boasted the oldest elevator in Lethbridge, one which required the rider to open the doors, Crowson says, to have it open on its own was unusual.

One desk clerk recalls a night shift when a man staying on the third floor came rushing out of the elevator into the lobby, screaming. He claimed he woke up to find a woman staring at him in his hotel room, and when he left, she followed him into the elevator.

Gallant says Global's sound man wanted to tape the sounds of the hotel, so they walked through with a reel-to-reel recorder taping the wind, birds and sound of broken glass crunching under their feet. She says the recorder was obviously working and had fresh batteries, but when they played back the tape, nothing was recorded except clicking sounds. A second attempt with more new batteries yielded the same result.

"We got a little creeped out by that," she says.

## Marquis Hotel

While Gallant doesn't think the hotel housed a ghost, believing instead that the stories were "the product of a lot of overactive imaginations," she did interview a hotel janitor who firmly believed Mathilda existed. In fact, he was convinced she came home with him after the building was demolished.

Gallant recalls the man telling her that his cat was behaving strangely, hissing at the back door. When he opened the door, the man said he saw his broom standing up by itself right where the cat was hissing. When he said, "Mathilda, is that you," the broom fell down.

Still later, the Herald received a call saying the ghost story was made up and the room was labeled DNR because it housed a covert surveillance operation so police could watch drug deals taking place in the bar. That story has also never been substantiated.

Ghost or not, the Marquis Hotel was near and dear to the hearts of many Lethbridge residents. Crowson recalls hearing about a dust storm in the 1930's which blew out one of the pane-glass windows in the hotel.

"It made front-page news," she says. "Not just because of the storm, but because it hurt the Marquis." The hotel's roof became home in 1928 to CJOC's studios when it began regular programming. Local businessman and community leader Sven Ericksen also got his start in the Marquis, leasing the hotel's restaurant for 10 years beginning in the 1940's.

Sadly, the inevitable passage of time took its toll on the building, and it gradually lost its prestige as newer hotels were built in the city. Still, its legacy and memories live on.

This story was compiled with notes from Greg Ellis, archivist for the city.



*1952 Marquis Hotel*

## Local Senior A Good Storyteller

At 96 years old, Mildred Byrne has a lot of memories to share.

But, where to start? Byrne's lunch with the Queen? Or perhaps the brave act of saving a neighbour from a house fire, which earned Byrne a medal of bravery and the invite to lunch in the first place?

Despite remarkable stories like these, Byrne maintains she is just a simple woman from meager beginnings, who was blessed with a full life.

Born in Lost Lake – which is now Enchant – Byrne grew up on the family farm established by her father after he was given the homestead land as a thank-you from the government for his service during World War I.



*1950 Downtown Lethbridge*

Then Mildred Johnson, Byrne says her family – Mildred, her parents and three siblings – eked out a living in what she calls “the driest place on earth.” Money was tight and Byrne remembers the family didn't leave the farm very often.

But, a couple of times a year the family would journey to Lethbridge for medical appointments and supplies which weren't available at Lost Lake's general store.

As a girl, Byrne remembers how exciting the city seemed. “It was an experience, let me tell you,” Byrne says of her early trips to the city. “We planned (the trip) for days and talked about it for days afterwards.”

Byrne remembers being wide-eyed at all the people and stores in one place. As a teenager, Byrne remembers one of the favourite pastimes, when they could manage, was for the rural children to travel to town and sit along 5 Street South, watching the city go by. “It depended on the weather and the roads, but that was the deal,” says Byrne of traveling as a teenager. Though they seldom had any money to spend, Byrne and her girlfriends would travel in with boyfriends, browse through the open stores and watch the cars go by.

When she graduated from school, Byrne's father somehow found the money to send her for a year's training at Normal School. “I don't know why they called it Normal School, ” she says with a chuckle. “I thought we were normal before that.”

Once graduated, Byrne began teaching at 12-mile Coulee, located between Picture Butte and Nobleford. “I remember when I got that school, I was so happy.” Byrne taught 30 students in Grades 1 through 8, and did all the janitorial work for the school as well.

Byrne remembers having two Grade-8 boys writing diploma exams not long after she started teaching. “It seemed your whole reputation depended on getting those two through Grade 8,” she says. “They both made it and whew, I was in.”

Byrne remembers getting her first pay day, when she received a \$100 check. “I said to my dad, ‘what am I going to do with all this money?’”

Byrne stayed at 12-mile Coulee for five years, then went to Picture Butte. Byrne was forced to resign her position in 1939 when she got married. “That was the rule in those days,” she says. “If you got married you had to quit.”

Byrne originally planned to be married at Christmas in 1938 but postponed the wedding six months after the school council asked her to stay on until June because they were having such a hard time finding a teacher.

Byrne married July 1, 1939 and was out of the teaching industry for 19 years while she raised four children. She and her husband moved to Lethbridge in 1947, and in 1958 she returned to work, teaching Grade 2 at Westminster School on the North Side.

## Mildred Byrne Cont.

Byrne was happily settled in the position when she received notice of an immediate transfer to Grade 12 at Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, where they were in desperate need of a business teacher. "I had taught at a business college, so they needed someone with business knowledge," she says. Byrne says she was immediately whisked over to LCI, where she was shown around. "Noon came and I realized I was at LCI and my lunch was still at Westminster," she says.

Despite the adjustment of being thrown into high school curriculum in the middle of the school year, Byrne taught accounting at LCI for nine years before moving on. By the time she retired in 1975, Byrne had taught every single Grade from kindergarten through Grade 12, as well as several college courses.

She recalls well the day she retired in 1975 – obeying an unwritten law which said teachers must retire at age 65. "My husband died two years before I retired," she says. "I remember the last day of school coming home with my books. "I said, 'here I am with no husband, no job and no kids. What am I going to do?' It was kind of a scary time."

But her retired life was anything but quiet.

Byrne remembers well the day in the fall of 1982 when she stepped off the bus on her way home and her neighbour across 15 Street South was standing on his porch calling for help. Byrne could see smoke billowing out the houses windows and immediately ran home to call the fire department.

"The door used to give me a lot of trouble to get it unlocked but that day I just stuck the key in and turned it," she says. After she alerted the fire department, Byrne, in her 70s at the time, ran back out to see if she could help.

She and another neighbour entered the house and discovered an elderly lady in a wheelchair. The woman's slippers had caught fire and her legs were burning. "I'll never forget the sight of that," she says.

Byrne called to a teenage boy walking down the street and he came in, grabbed cushions off the couch and used them to extinguish the fire burning the woman's legs. The three then dragged the woman – who was quite heavy – across the floor, down the front steps and onto the front lawn to safety.

"I remember taking off my coat and putting it on her," she says. "And the boy, I think his name was Kevin, also took his coat off and put it on her." Byrne recalls hearing afterwards that when the boy went to his mother's workplace afterwards, she chastised him for not wearing a coat and accused him of smoking because of the way he smelled.

The event attracted a lot of media attention and Byrne, the boy and the other neighbour all received medals of bravery for their actions. It was that medal that resulted in a surprising luncheon invitation that showed up in Byrne's mail a couple of years later.



*Mildred Byrne*

The notice said that Queen Elizabeth would be in the country, a quiet visit with little publicity, and that Byrne was invited to have lunch with her at Rideau Hall. Byrne recalls that after lunch each invitee had to walk one by one down a red carpet, where they were greeted personally by Queen Elizabeth.

"The saying that you can't shake hands with the Queen is not true because she shook hands with each of us," she says. "But I can't for the life of me remember what she said or what I said." Byrne still has the menu from that lunch.

Today, Byrne resides in Gardenview Lodge and is an active member of the Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization, where she enjoys a reputation as a good storyteller.

## The City's Finest

Imagine having a police officer deliver your mail, or medication to your house.

Such duties are well beyond the scope of today's police force but were part of a regular day in 1874, when the North West Mounted Police – and forerunners to today's Lethbridge Regional Police Service – was established.

In fact, North West Mounted Police officers were often the only link to the world for settlers on the vast prairies.

Established to put an end to the whiskey trade, gain the confidence of the Indians, educate citizens about the law, collect custom dues and other duties, the NWMP originally patrolled this area from their base in Fort Macleod.

In 1885 Eli J. Hodder, a Corporal with the NWMP, and five men from the Fort Macleod division arrived in Lethbridge, setting up shop in an old meat market on Fort Street (2 Avenue South). The force recognized that Lethbridge was growing quickly and by late 1886 had a complement of 100 men in the town.

The NWMP played a role in policing Lethbridge until April 21, 1902, when town council passed a motion to set up a police force.

A former NWMP Corporal, Thomas Lewis, became the first Chief Constable for Lethbridge. Described by his former Superintendent as a "terror to evildoers" Lewis took on the role of Constable, Town inspector and poundkeeper. A special constable was also hired, should his services be needed, bringing Lethbridge's first police force to two.

May 14, 1904 town council approved hiring of another policeman, bringing the force up to three. A fourth policeman was added shortly after Lethbridge was incorporated as a city in 1906.

By 1912, a decade after it started, the force consisted of 18 men. While the force was housed at 402 2nd Avenue South, in a red brick building it shared with the fire department for the first decade, it moved to a second station – across the street in 1912. This station served as police headquarters from 1912 to 1917.

During these years the force – plagued by a high turnover in staff and still responsible for duties such as approving business licences – was also hit by economic recession.

Council began to request to reduce the number of men on force and by January 1916, only seven men were listed as employees.

In 1916 council appointed Fire Chief William Hardy as police chief as well, and for a time, the city's firemen also performed police duties.



*1917 Chinook Club (leased to City of Lethbridge)  
Housed City Offices and Police Department*

In 1917 the force was relocated to 322 - 7 St. S., known as the "old city hall." The force shared space with the courtroom and Magistrate's headquarters, and struggled to perform its duties in a building with inaccessible and inadequate cells where suicides and even escapes were not uncommon.

By 1918 city residents were complaining about the under-staffed and over-worked police force and funds were found to hire two more men.

In 1920 Hardy submitted his resignation as police chief and returned to his role as fire chief only, making him the only man to serve as combined fire and police chief.

## The City's Finest Cont.

In 1928 the public was dissatisfied with the force's lack of effort in controlling gambling, prostitution and bootlegging and the new chief, Thomas R. Nicholls, cleaned house. Nicholls asked the entire force to resign and rehired only six men. With new hirings, Nicholls started over with a force numbering 13.

The force, however, continued to struggle due to a shortage of staff. The inability of the small force to cope with the demands upon it eventually led to the resignation of Nicholls.

Fortunately the new chief, George Harvey, was able to better organize the officers and in 1947 the force moved into a badly needed new station at 5 Avenue and 5th Street South.



The force remained here – an addition was built in 1962 when the staff numbered 37 – until 1996. The force was plagued by a constant staff turnover from 1945 to 1952, but by 1952 had a staff of 20. In 1954 the police service obtained its own radio frequency, and by 1957 had a staff of 30, two cars and one motorcycle.

In 1960, two-way walkie talkie radios were purchased and in 1962 the police gun range was established. The force's first police dog came on the scene in 1964. The force continued to grow and adapt, starting traffic safety and crime prevention programs. By 1970 the force numbered eighty one.

The force has continued to grow over the decades, moving one more time in 1996 to its existing station at 135 1st Avenue South. This building today also holds the Public Safety Communications Centre (PSCC), which houses the 911 emergency call centre, fire and police dispatch.

In 2004 the service became the Lethbridge Regional Police Service and began policing Coaldale as well as the city.

Today, the force includes 141 sworn officers 43 non-members and 50 volunteers, who do foot and car patrols, teach safety, make court appearances, analyze crime scenes to solve crimes and provide victim's services. Aside from regular beat officers, the force has a K-9 unit, tactical unit and bomb squad.

In the force's 104 years of existence, only two officers have been killed in the line of duty. Acting Sargent Paul Smith died on June 10, 1913 by electrocution after he touched a faulty electric street light wire while on foot patrol at 3rd Avenue and 9th Street South. Constable Calvin Byam drowned June 10, 1964 while patrolling the flooded Oldman River valley on horseback to ensure residents were being evacuated safely.

This history of the Lethbridge Police Service was compiled using notes from Constable George Carscadden and the book *The Badge and The Blotter*, by James Harold Carpenter, city police chief from 1957 – 1971.



## Power Development in Lethbridge

In 1893 a privately-owned company installed the first electric plant in Lethbridge, consisting of two single phase 30 kilowatt 1040 volt generators driven by a 150 horsepower Robb engine. Steam was supplied by the Alberta Coal and Navigation Co. Later the company purchased a building and converted it into a boiler house and engine room. The new plant boasted its own coilers and 250 horsepower engine and 200 kilowatt generator.

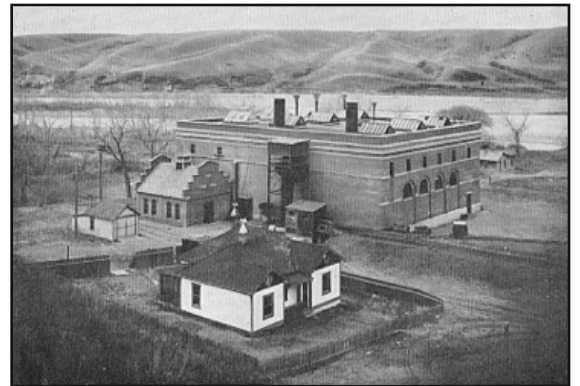


*1893 - 1955 Power Development*

It was common in those early days for generators to burn up. This happened so often that a record was kept in order to decide whose turn it was to do without light. As the power plant had only one machine, power had to be obtained from adjacent mine power plants when the city plant was inoperative, and it was not possible to supply the whole town in this way.

Light was supplied on the basis of 50 cents per month for a 16 candle power carbon lamp. Customers frequently changed their eight or sixteen candle power lights for larger units. This practice hastened the installation of electric meters.

In 1907 the City purchased the company's power plant and holdings. Construction of a new power plant was started in the river bottom area, and this building, with additions, comprises the present power plant.



On New Year's eve, 1909, the old power plant was burned to the ground. The new plant was underway, but far from complete, and all possible haste was made to bring this plant into operation. Temporary connections, piping and the operation of the plant without condensers hastened the commissioning of the new generators. Meanwhile shifts were working, the mine could supply only a small portion of the city with electricity.

The new plant had one 300KW two-phase 2,300 volt generators each directly connected to Bellis and Moreom engines. During 1912 a further unit consisting of a Williams and Robinson turbine and a Siemens 1,200 kilowatt generator were installed, and in 1919 a General electric turbine and generator of 1,250 kilowatts were added.

By 1924 the two phase generating system was outmoded and was changed to three-phase at considerable expense.

In 1932 an Oerlicon turbine and generator of 3,500 kilowatt capacity was added to the power plant and this machine, together with the General Electric machine installed in 1919, supplied the city through the depression years. In 1924 a Parson turbine and 5,000 kilowatt generator were installed.

In 1953, a further 5,000 kilowatt C.A. Parsons Co. unit was installed, so that the electric generating capacity of the power plant was 13,500 kilowatts.

This represents an increase in electrical capacity of 6,750 per cent over a 50 year period.

## The Lethbridge Tartan

Did you know the City of Lethbridge has its own tartan? The registered City of Lethbridge Tartan is a recent addition to the City's official symbols, having been the brain child of the Lethbridge Handicraft Guild in the late 1990's.

In 1997, the Guild wove placemats with the tartans of each province and territory. This gave Guild members the idea that Lethbridge should have its own tartan. They went before City Council in October 1998 to talk to Mayor David Carpenter and aldermen about the idea. The Guild received approval for the project shortly thereafter.



Guild members wanted to use the colours in the City Crest as inspiration, explains Deb Rakos, a member of the Lethbridge Handicraft Guild. Green is for trees and grass, gold is for ripe harvest fields, red is for R.C.M.P. history, white is for snow, yellow is for sun and canola fields, light blue is for blue skies, steel blue is for mountains, black is for coal mining and pink is for the Alberta rose.

The Lethbridge Handicraft Guild celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1999 and wanted to do something to mark the occasion. The new City Hall building was completed in 2000, and a Guild member wove a sash made from the City of Lethbridge Tartan for the Grand Opening. "There was a lot to celebrate," says Rakos.

The Guild registered the Lethbridge Tartan with the Scottish Tartan Society in 2000. "The City Tartan is a representation of something that community members can do for the City," says Rakos, "It shows pride in our community. While some people don't care if the City has a tartan, to others it means a great deal."

Rakos notes that, if southern Albertans see her wearing the tartan, they always ask about it, and they're pleasantly surprised when she tells them it's the registered City of Lethbridge Tartan.

The Lethbridge Tartan has also been woven into items presented to the likes of Adrienne Clarkson, former Governor General of Canada. In 2005 the Lethbridge Tartan won an award from the magazine, "Handwoven".

## Recreation Mecca

Lethbridge's history of recreational complexes goes back almost as far as that of our nation.

In fact, the city's first pool, the Fritz Sick, is one of the top five oldest in the country, says Tom Hopkins, manager of recreation, parks and culture for the city.

The pool, built as an outdoor facility in 1945, was only the first of many recreational facilities to pop up in Lethbridge, says Hopkins.

The Fritz Sick pool was covered in 1966, due in large part to the naughtiness of residents.



*1945 Fritz Sick*

"People used to jump off the roof of the gymnasium into the pool after hours and all sorts of weird stuff," he says.

Shortly after the Fritz Sick was built, the Lethbridge Ice Arena was built downtown. Unfortunately, it burned down in 1971.

In 1949 the Lethbridge Curling Club was built where it still stands today, along 6th Avenue South. The Civic Centre was added in 1951 and the athletic field immediately east was built sometime prior to 1961.

In 1962 the Henderson Lake outdoor pool was built, and it was a thrill for residents, says Hopkins.

"It was miles ahead of its time in 1962," he says. "Back then they used to build rectangle-shaped pools. With its shallow area and island, it was a very progressive design for western Canada."

Hopkins recalls working as a lifeguard when the pool was in its heyday, attracting up to 3,000 swimmers a day.

In 1963, the Bowman Arts Centre was built, followed by the Adams Ice Centre in 1965, the same year the Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens made their debut. In 1966, the Yates Memorial Theatre was built and the Dave Elton Little League park was established in the early 1960's.

Things were then quiet for a few years, says Hopkins, until another building explosion in the 1970's.

In 1972, the Henderson Park tennis clubhouse was built, followed by the Henderson Ice Arena in 1973.

In 1974, the Sportsplex and Stan Siwik pool were built, both to house athletic events during the Canada Winter Games, which the city hosted in 1975.

The Stan Siwik pool, however, boasts the name of one of Lethbridge's greatest aquatic champions and fans.

A Poland native, Stanley Slowomir Siwik began competitively swimming at 12 years old.

In 1936 Siwik swam in the Berlin Olympics as a member of Poland's national swim team. His swimming career, however, was interrupted in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland at the beginning of World War II.

Siwik spent five years in a concentration camp after being arrested by the Gestapo in 1940 for fighting with the Polish underground.

In 1948, Siwik came to Canada and became the aquatic director of the YMCA, rebuilding the swimming program in Lethbridge.

In 1950, he formed the Lethbridge Amateur Swim Club and served as coach until 1972. Siwik also served as the Canadian national team coach in 1971 and as a swimming official at the 1968 and 1972 Olympics.

## A Recreation Mecca

In 1974 the pool was named for Siwik in recognition of his many contributions to aquatics in Lethbridge.

In 1975 the Henderson ball park grandstand was built, with the clubhouse added in 1986 and dugouts in 1994.

In 1977, the Fritz Sick Centre was expanded to include gymnasiums and the space occupied by the Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization.

Also in 1977, the Labor Club Ice Centre was built, followed by the Westminister pool which, in 1978, replaced the Lion's pool. The Lakeview Little League park was also established in the 1970's.

In 1981 city residents welcomed the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre. An addition was built onto the facility in 1984.

In 1982 Nicholas Sheran pool was built, followed by the Nicholas Sheran Ice Centre in 1986. The 1980's also saw the addition of a BMX park and the Popson Park picnic shelter, in 1987.

In 1990, the Sterndale-Bennett Theatre was built and the Lakeview baseball stadium was constructed around 1995. The indoor soccer centre was built in 1997, along with the Lloyd Nolan baseball park.

2005 an outdoor soccer and rugby complex opened on the city's north side.



*1982 Nicholas Sheran*

Hopkins says most of the complexes were built as government funding came available, but population growth and demand play a role.

For example, Lethbridge's population grew from 35,000 in 1961 to 40,800 in 1971. By 1981 the population sat at 54,600 and had jumped to 60,610 by 1986 and 78,713 by 2006.

"Back in the 1970's Lethbridge was also touted as one of the communities noted for a plethora of recreational facility opportunities and a very active population," he says.

Today, Hopkins says Lethbridge still boasts a lot of recreational facilities for its size, and all remain well-utilized.

However, many are also approaching the end of their lifespan, and the city is preparing to deal with that.

Hopkins' department is in the process of auditing Lethbridge's facilities and creating a recreational facility master plan which will detail which facilities are in need of renovation and which need to be rebuilt all together.

The group is also assessing functionality of the facilities to determine which are still meeting the community's needs.

When a long-term strategy has been developed, it will be presented to city council to assist aldermen in making decisions regarding the facilities.

## The Research Station was a Coup for the City

The Lethbridge News and Macleod Gazette had an ongoing war of words in the early 1900's, leading up to the announcement of a new federal Research Station for the area.

In May 1905 the Lethbridge News reported that, 'In an editorial blizzard of about a length's length, The Macleod Gazette goes after us for saying that Lethbridge is entitled to a government experimental farm. In the course of its pathetic pleadings for poor old Macleod and in order to prove that the Macleod district is just the place to experiment with irrigation, our contemporary adds, "There is only one place drier than Macleod and that isn't Macleod." We wonder what he means.'



*Early Farming*

The research station, or the Dominion Experimentation Station as it was known, began in Lethbridge in 1906. Lethbridge seems to have gained the edge in 1905, when Elliott Galt, General Manager of the North Western Coal and Navigation Company, donated 320 acres of prairie land east of the City. The Lethbridge facility became the sixth experimental station to be developed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

Earlier, in 1901, Charles Magrath, Manager of the Galts' irrigation company, had hired William Harmon Fairfield, who was Superintendent of the Experimental Station of the University of Wyoming, to operate a model farm. On August 1, 1906, Fairfield began his work at the new Research Station. He was paid \$1,500 a year. A couple of years later he showed farmers how to grow alfalfa.

The Research Station was established "to provide much-needed technical information for the growing but economically unstable agricultural industry in southern Alberta." According to a history of the Research Station, the pioneer farmers wanted technical advice on dealing with drought, wind, weeds and pesky insects, says the history. The facility started slowly, with just four buildings on the site by 1908: an implement shed, horse barn, boarding house and superintendent's house. Fairfield lived in the boarding house until his residence was built.

In the early years, researchers were concerned with land-use studies. They established crop rotations and conducted tests of forage, cereal and horticultural crops. Seeding studies were initiated on irrigated and dry land, and hay production was assessed on irrigated pastures. Crop varieties adapted to the local climatic conditions were tested and recommended to producers.

During the next few decades, researchers concentrated on improving farm productivity. They developed higher yielding crop varieties, more efficient land and pasture management practices and effective insect and disease control. Livestock studies began in 1911 with a test on feeding lambs. Cattle feeding experiments began in 1912. During the Depression years of the 1930's, researchers experimented with many soil conservation methods because topsoil losses were extensive. Strip farming and the use of ground cover were found to be excellent soil conservation methods.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration began in 1935, set up in part to battle drought and erosion problems. Under this administration, the size of the Research Station more than doubled. By the 1940's, facilities had expanded to include research on livestock insect pests. Weed research, breeding of better forages and cereals, and plant pathology programs were also in place.

In April 1959, Tom Anstey was appointed the first director of the Lethbridge Research Station, which became one of six regional facilities where an experimental farm and science service laboratory had been put under one director. There was little growth in the 1960's, however, major changes occurred in 1977 with the building of a new \$24-million research station complex funded with federal and provincial help. By that time, society had realized the benefits of agriculture, and the complex was hailed as a model of agricultural research facilities.

Currently, the Lethbridge Research Station has substations in Onefour, Vauxhall and Stavely. The station is also the culmination of the Dominion Entomological Laboratory, founded in 1913, the Livestock Insect Laboratory, founded in 1946, and the Science Service Laboratory, founded in 1949. The Dominion Range Experiment Station in Manyberries, founded in 1927, and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration Drainage Division in Vauxhall were later added to the facility.

## The Lethbridge School Board Dates Back Over 100 Years

Prior to it even being incorporated as a town, Lethbridge had its first school board.

Coal Banks (Lethbridge) was founded October 1882, and Lethbridge was incorporated as a town January 15, 1891. In 1886 the Territorial Board of Education in Regina, Saskatchewan, approved the formation of a three-member school board for the fledgling coal mining settlement.

Even at that time, formal classroom education was underway in the town. In early winter 1885, a young English woman named Edith Emma Coe began teaching the three R's to fewer than a dozen children in a miner's cottage.



*1888 Lethbridge Public School*

The organization of the school board which would become Lethbridge School District No. 51 was approved because by 1886 there were a good number of children in the town site who needed a formal education.

On March 25, 1886, William Stafford, Superintendent of the Galt mines was installed as chairman of the board and John Craig, a cabinet-maker, was elected board member. The two men were authorized to act until a third member could be found and got to work immediately. At their first meeting, the men resolved the board would procure books in town for use in the school and decided to see if it was possible to secure a cottage from the North Western Coal and Navigation Company for school purposes. The board also received an application for the teaching position and tentatively approved hiring the applicant for \$50 a month.

Shortly thereafter Howard Greenwood, chief accountant for the mining company, was elected as the board's third member and secretary-treasurer. The three men were able to get a cottage from the mining company, located at the top of the coulee on Ford Street (2 Avenue South), at the rental rate of \$10 a month.

A porch was added to the front of the one-room school and a second bathroom was installed. On April 11, 1886, Bruce Latimer – not the original applicant for the job – began teaching in the school.

It was not long, however, before the cottage was too small to accommodate the growing student population and on July 7, 1886 the board – following a public meeting – decided to proceed with building a school house.

Tenders were taken and Lethbridge's first school – built at a cost of \$1,565 – was completed Jan. 15, 1887. The two-room school, located at the corner of Dufferin and Glyn Streets (4 Avenue and 7 Street South) now had two teachers, Latimer and Margaret Duff.

Again, Lethbridge's ever-increasing population outgrew the schools capabilities and in 1889 the board approved the building of an addition. An addition and coal house were built and a stone foundation was laid under this and the original building.

But Lethbridge kept growing and soon its first school was just too small.

The board began to plan bigger things and the school house was sold to Elliot T. Galt, president of the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company, for \$2,500.

For a time, a boarding house was run out of the "old school," and then the building was given to the Empire Club. When the club folded the Trades and Labor Council took possession of the building and renamed it the Labor Temple.

Eventually, it is believed the school house was sold and moved to a lot in the London Road area to become a private residence.

The history of Lethbridge's first school was compiled with notes from Audrey Baines' book, Lethbridge School District No. 51, The First 100 Years, From Cottage to Composite.

## The Southern Alberta Art Gallery

Stepping into the Southern Alberta Art Gallery is a little bit like stepping into the past.

The gallery is one of the few long-time Lethbridge organizations which remains in the building it began in.

"We started in this building," says gallery director Marilyn Smith. "In fact, (the building) was one of the motivating factors for the gallery to be formed."

The building, located along 3rd Avenue South at Galt Gardens, was once Lethbridge's public library. When the present library facility was built in the mid-1970's, a group of interested people began eyeing the then-vacant building as the potential location for an art gallery.

Smith says a group of students and interested residents formed the Southern Alberta Art Gallery Association, and lobbied then-mayor Andy Anderson for the Building.

The group even gathered 1,000 signatures on a petition in support of their cause.

In 1975, the group was awarded the building by city Council and renovations were quickly underway.

The gallery opened in January 1976.

And though the gallery has grown and expanded exponentially over the years, it has found a way to thrive without the need to move to a bigger location.

"The building has really proved to be very adaptable to our needs," says Smith. The building features two large exhibition spaces, which hold exhibitions by 12 different artists a year.

The exhibition spaces, says Smith, are big and functional enough to accommodate any form the artist's works may take.

"This is an excellent location," she says, "and we use every single square inch of space given to us."

Besides the different artist exhibitions showcased throughout the year, the gallery runs a variety of year-round educational programs.

One school-based program integrates the Alberta school curriculum with art to teach art-making techniques to students.

"We integrate the curriculum points with the exhibition that's up at the moment," says Smith.

There is also a teen art club and aboriginal teen art club which meet every two weeks at the gallery. Artwork produced by the participants is showcased in the gallery's hallway.

The gallery also runs drop-in Friday afternoon, Saturday and summer programs for children.

For adults, the gallery offers a Tuesday noon film series, where anyone interested is invited to bring a lunch and watch different art-related videos. Smith says the program draws a lot of seniors and downtown business people looking for a little break.

Every Thursday at noon the gallery's education coordinator offers guided tours of the current art exhibits.

Also, every spring, the gallery features an exhibition of student artwork from southern Alberta's schools. Over 3,000 students a year then come to participate in Safari to the Gallery, where they tour their own exhibition as well as the other exhibitions and take part in an art activity.



## The Southern Alberta Art Gallery Cont.

That program, says Smith, has been running for 28 years (almost as long as the gallery has been in existence.)

"There are people who took part in the program 25 years ago and now have children participating." Smith says the gallery's mandate is to bring the best Canadian art into Lethbridge.

"We have a strong national reputation as being one of the leading Canadian contemporary art galleries," she says. "We're known as a place where emerging artists could have their first major show, a launch pad for many careers."

Over time, she says, Lethbridge itself has developed a reputation for having a thriving arts community. Lethbridge formed one of the first art councils in the country and hobbyist clubs such as the Lethbridge Sketch Club have been in existence for many years.

With a variety of public art venues (SAAG, the Allied Arts Council, the University of Lethbridge, the public library, the Yates theatre and the Sir Alexander Galt Museum) and just as many artist-run centres and privately-run galleries, Lethbridge has emerged as a city many artists are pleased to work in and with.

"Lethbridge is considered a desirable visual arts community," says Smith. "It is a real wealth of creativity here."

To celebrate the city's centennial, SAAG plans to showcase local artists in a major way.

The gallery has brought back the original director and curator, Allan MacKay, to curate an exhibition in celebration of Lethbridge's 100 years.

Called Current, the juried exhibition will feature all local works of art.

Running from June 24 through September 3, the exhibition will fill the entire gallery.

"We're really going to showcase the incredible artistic production that occurs in this community," says Smith. "I think it will be really interesting for the community."

Opening weekend the gallery invites all artists, staff and board members who have been involved with the gallery over the years to come back to Lethbridge and join in the celebration.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the gallery is encouraging all students to produce artwork with the theme of looking into Lethbridge in the next 100 years. A mural unveiled May 7 featured the same theme.



*Southern Alberta Art Gallery*

## The Town of Lethbridge had some Growing Pains

William Lethbridge never set sight upon the city that bears his name. Born in February 1825, the Englishman was an original shareholder of the North Western Coal and Navigation Company, Limited, which began mining for coal in the community in 1882. Lethbridge was the company's first president and, in his honour, the town became known as Lethbridge.

If Lethbridge had paid a visit to the community during his lifetime, he would have seen the town growing through the ups and downs of its early development. By the end of October 1885, the Town of Lethbridge boasted over 60 buildings including stores, saloons, billiard rooms, barbershops, one hotel and a livery stable. Its population was 1,478.

The Town did not have any sort of formal government during its first four years. In a history of the local Chamber of Commerce, local historian Alex Johnston wrote, "Life in Lethbridge in the mid-1880's was not very attractive. Since there was no civic government, the town had no sidewalks, no street lighting, no water or sewer facilities, and no protection against fire."

However, with the announcement in 1889 that a railway would be built from Lethbridge to Montana, a Board of Trade was created to plan and stimulate Lethbridge's growth. One of the Board's main goals was to incorporate Lethbridge as a Town. However, incorporation meant one major trade-off for Lethbridge's citizens: taxation.

On January 15, 1891, Lethbridge officially became a town, but few voters had shown up to vote on the matter of incorporation. On December 29, 1890, 142 residents voted in favour of incorporating Lethbridge, with four voters against it. According to the Lethbridge News, "The smallness of the vote is accounted for by the fact that many of the working men, feeling sure there would be no opposition, did not trouble to leave their work to go to the polls." And women were not given the right to vote until 1918.

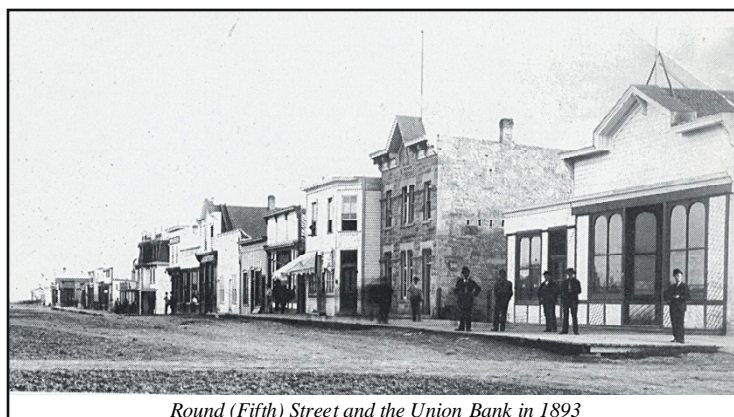
Changes came gradually, as the town kept taxes to a minimum during an economic slump during the early 1890's. Private citizens, not the Town, put up street lights and built a telephone network. Sir Alexander Galt built a hospital and donated it to the Town.

Residents put money into the school system, too. The first Public School was built in 1887, and the first Central School opened in 1891. The School Board also built a small schoolhouse in an area where many immigrant families lived so their children could have an education. The Town's first Catholic school opened in 1889.

There were also a number of non-economic problems, including racial tensions. "Many central and southern European immigrants found jobs in the coal mines, and many Lethbridgians blamed the town's rowdiness on the immigrants," wrote Johnston in another local history.

In those early days, Lethbridge was a rough town because the population had increased so quickly with many men coming to work in the mines. Prostitutes were plying their trade in a red light district, gambling was common, and alcohol was flowing.

According to Johnston, it wasn't until 1902 that the Town Council hired its own Constable. Before that, the community relied on the North West Mounted Police to enforce laws, even though they had no jurisdiction in Lethbridge. Staffing problems and a lack of support from citizens, however, prevented effective law enforcement. In 1905, Council reorganized its two-man Force, and another officer was hired the next year.



*Round (Fifth) Street and the Union Bank in 1893*

## The Town of Lethbridge had some Growing Pains Cont.

"Finally, twenty years after its founding, Lethbridge had the basis of a systematic approach to law enforcement, but had not solved all its problems," wrote Johnston. By the mid 1890's the economy had at least improved, and the Town began making improvements. "With boundless optimism, Lethbridge expanded its civic administration, planted hundreds of trees, replaced wooden sidewalks with concrete, improved street lighting, and in 1904 completed the first stage of a \$130,000 water and sewage system."

The Town also gave a 20-year tax exemption on all railway properties, and free water to the Canadian Pacific Railway and Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company to entice them into making Lethbridge a divisional point with a Union station. In eight years, from 1897 to 1904, the town's budget had doubled, and debt also rose. The agriculture sector had substantially grown by the time the town was incorporated as a City in 1906, and numerous Lethbridge businesses were servicing the surrounding agricultural community.

"Lethbridge, however, never became the industrial metropolis its promoters envisioned," wrote Johnston. "The cows and calves, which tramped through the streets every morning as the town herder took them to pasture, symbolized the agricultural base of the city's economy."

While Lethbridge was founded with coal, Johnston wrote, the fertile soil, helped along by irrigation, gave Lethbridge its "most enduring foundation."



*3rd Avenue & 1st Street South*



*Looking East on 5th Avenue and 7th Street South*



*1907 View from Water Tower*

## Local Steamships

The title of Gord Tolton's new book *Prairie Warships* sounds like a mistake.

But Lethbridge's colourful history features ships (steamships, to be exact) which somehow found themselves in the unlikely position of going to war right here on the prairies.

Tolton has recounted the fascinating tale of the steamships, which were meant to haul coal but eventually played a role in the Northwest Rebellion.

Four of the steamships involved belonged to the Hudson's Bay Company, says Tolton, while the other three (the *Baroness*, the *Alberta* and the *Minnow*) belonged to the Northwest Coal and Navigation Company right here in Lethbridge.

The *Baroness* was built in 1883 in Lethbridge, at a shipyard located in the river valley where Indian Battle Park sits today. The ship was built from lumber from the Porcupine Hills, floated down the river from west of Fort Macleod.

The *Alberta* was built in 1884 in Medicine Hat, as the boilers, engines and machinery were shipped in from the east by rail and it was determined it would be easier to build it there.

Both the *Baroness* and *Alberta* were full Mississippi-style steamships.

The *Minnow* was a tugboat and was built in 1884 in what is now Kenora, Ontario.

Sir Alexander Galt had a contract to supply coal to the CPR and because the railway came nowhere near Lethbridge at the time, the ships were brought in to haul the coal to the nearest railhead.

"Unfortunately, they didn't do their research well enough into the Oldman River," says Tolton.

The coal was loaded onto the ships as well as barges the ships would pull or push down the river. However, the ships bottomed out with regularity and the crews would have to unload all the coal, un-ground the ship and load the coal back on.

Galt also quickly discovered he was burning as much coal as he was hauling just to get the whole production up the river.

By fall of 1884 the ships were all docked in Medicine Hat and Galt was in danger of defaulting on the CPR contract.

Fortunately for him, the Northwest Rebellion started shortly thereafter.

During the battle of Duck Lake in March 1885, the government had to mobilize troops near the join of the North Saskatchewan and South Saskatchewan Rivers. With no railroad nearby, the troop had to travel across land from Qu'Appelle or Swift Current.

General Middleton decided to call the steamships into action and send half the troop over land and the other half by ship, which would save time.

"Galt was very interested in that," says Tolton. "He was in big trouble with his investors and saw a chance to make some big money."



## Local Steamships Cont.

The Northcote, an HBC ship which had been trying to haul freight on the North Saskatchewan River and was also docked in Medicine Hat, was sent out in mid-April. The Galt boats left Medicine Hat a day later, one day too late, says Tolton.

The water levels dropped that day, delaying the Galt ships by two weeks and effectively changing the course of history.

“General Middleton and Colonel Otter changed strategies and went over land to North Battleford,” says Tolton.

The Galt ships eventually did catch up and were used for freighting and as hospital ships.

The Northcote, however, played a much more pivotal role in the Battle of Batoche, Louis Riel's headquarters.

After a defeat at Fish Creek, Middleton was awaiting supplies and reinforcements to arrive on the steamships.

When the ships arrived, Middleton decided to equip the Northcote as a gunship for the battle.

Tolton says the troops raided abandoned farms, tearing down barns and houses, then armoured the whole boat with two-inch planking.

The ship and ground forces were supposed to coordinate their attack, says Tolton, but somehow the ship got there early and was involved in a four-hour gunfight.

At one point during the battle, says Tolton, the ship was almost boarded by the Metis.

The Metis used a ferry cable to try to upset the ship but only managed to knock the smokestacks off. That did, however, kill the ships engines.

At one point, says Tolton, the gunfire was so intense the ship's pilot was forced to lay on the floor and steer the ship with his toes, narrowly avoiding a boulder which still sits in the river today.

“It came very close to being a massacre there,” says Tolton.

Eventually the ground troops arrived and the battle raged for two more days.

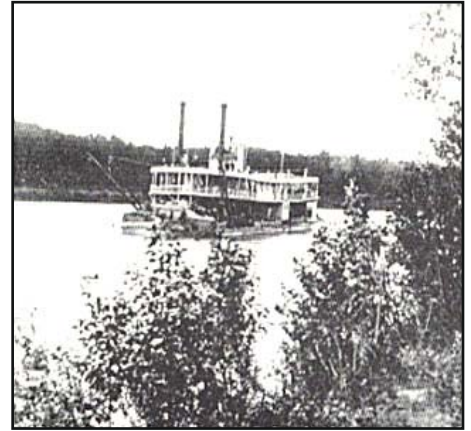
In July 1885, following the end of the rebellion, the steamships were used to transport all troops to Lake Winnipeg, from where they were shipped home by rail.

Following the rebellion the Baroness was wrecked in a flood in Medicine Hat.

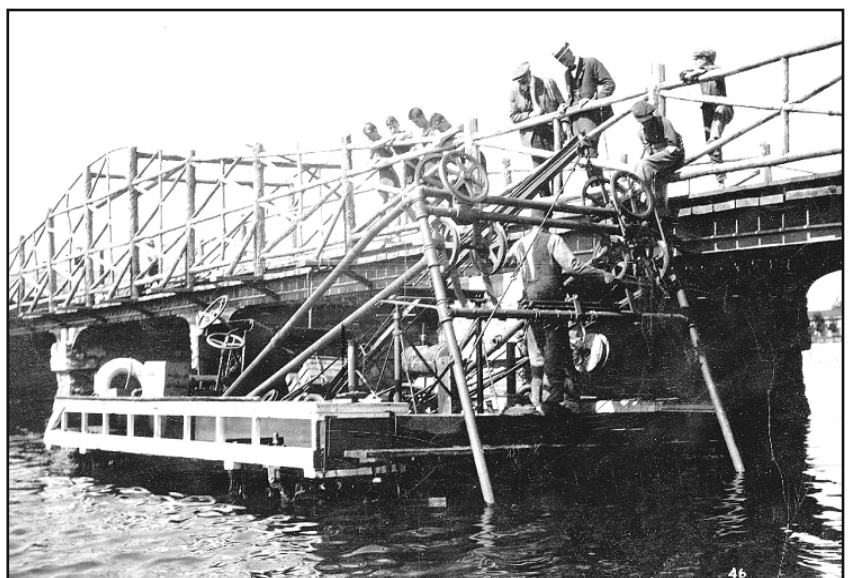
The Minnow, however, was used to haul lumber and the Alberta helped power Galt's coal mines in Lethbridge.

Eventually, says Tolton, the ships were sold for scrap.

“There are rumours that some houses in Lethbridge are built with lumber from the ships,” he says.



*Galt Company Riverboat*



# Historical

## Early Transportation

To see Lethbridge's public transportation system now, it's hard to believe it started with three street cars and a few miles of track.

But the Lethbridge Municipal Street Railway System, incorporated in 1912, formed the basis for the intricate network of transit bus routes connecting the city today.

What may be even harder to believe is that the railway system was installed as a way to prevent residents of north Lethbridge from breaking away and forming a separate municipality.

Plans for the railway system were drawn up after residents of north Lethbridge began in 1911 to threaten to break away if they did not get transportation service, says Diane Boulton, dispatcher/office administrator for Lethbridge's transit department.



*1912 photo show numerous modes of transportation*

It was August 16, 1912, says Boulton, that the city officially opened the 11 miles of track which formed the Lethbridge Municipal Street Railway System.

Three horse-drawn streetcars operated on three lines, the red, the white and the blue.

The blue line ran north up 13th Street as far as it existed, which at the time was to 9 Avenue North. The red line ran down 3rd Avenue South to 13th Street, then jogged over to 6 Avenue South where it looped down past Henderson Lake and the Lethbridge exhibition grounds.

The white line also started down 3rd Avenue, but went straight south down 13th Street to the St. Michael's Hospital.

All three cars were dispatched out of a downtown terminal located in what is now the southwest corner of Galt Gardens, across 3 Avenue South from the Club Cigar Store.

The cars required two operators until 1930, when the city switched to single-operator cars.

Those electric cars serviced the city for nine more years until, in 1939, the city bought its first two motorcoach buses. Unfortunately, says Boulton, the shortage of rubber tires and fuel during the Second World War I prevented the city from using the buses for the next seven years.

But the city was able to acquire several more buses immediately following the war and in 1947, the streetcar system was phased out.

That, says Boulton, was the single more important move in creating the transit system Lethbridge has today.

That was probably the biggest move, the move away from the metal wheel and into the rubber tire era, she says.

While she can't say for sure why exactly the city decided to purchase buses, Boulton suspects it was just a sign of the times.

"The biggest thing from a historical point of view for the industry was around World War II, when there was a real push by rubber manufacturers for tires," she says. "That's when you actually saw a lot of (municipalities) moving away from the trolley-type car."

With the purchase of the buses, says Boulton, the city was suddenly in a much better position to be able to service the expanding city because no rail lines would need to be built — a costly and time-consuming procedure.

## Early Transportation Cont.

And expand the system is exactly what the city did. In the early 1950's, city transit officials suddenly found themselves facing a considerable jump in demand for the service.

"There was a significant jump in service usage in the early 1950's," says Boulton. "A lot more people were riding because not a lot of people had transportation, so they used public transportation."

In fact, so many people were using the system then that the number of fares collected in the 1950's and 1960's (about 2.7 million a year) is roughly the same as is collected today, despite the fact the city is much larger now.

Nineteen seventy four brought more significant changes for the transit system. That year the city changed the style of buses and began offering school bus service.

That year also saw the expansion of service routes in north and south Lethbridge, in 1978 the city began to run buses to west Lethbridge.

Since then, the system has slowly expanded and evolved to accommodate Lethbridge's ever-growing population.

In 1999, the transit department began to implement the 20/20 Vision program - long-range planning designed to anticipate the city's growth and changing demographics and adapt to meet those needs.

"The past five to six years we've made a concerted effort to try to long-range plan," says Boulton. "Now we're more proactive with planning and system adjustments. Before, there was a long period of time before we'd adjust a route."

The most recent major change was in 2003, when the link route was established, allowing travellers to take the bus directly from the north side to south Lethbridge without having to loop through the main downtown terminal.

"We wanted to make people's trip times quicker, more direct," says Boulton.

This year, a terminal was built in north Lethbridge, at the intersection of 13th Street and 26th Avenue. North Lethbridge routes now run on a 30-minute schedule, instead of the 40-minute schedule.

Accessibility of the buses is another issue the transit department has dealt with over the past several years.

Newer, more accessible buses with fewer steps and the ability to lower to curb level have been added to the fleet. Some buses now even feature flip-up seats so those in wheelchairs can be secured for the ride.

Boulton says eight new buses were added to the city's fleet of 37 at Christmas, and eight more are on order for June.

In addition to the 37 passenger buses, the city also operates 34 school buses and boasts a staff of 120, including 51 full-time transit operators.

That number, says Boulton, has doubled in the past 25 years.

The buses log roughly 4,000 kilometers a day and use almost one million liters of fuel in a year.

The majority of the city's bus riders are high school and post-secondary students, says Boulton. However, rising fuel costs and sometimes even bad weather are making riding the bus a more appealing option for people, she says.



## A SHORT HISTORY of LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

by Greg Ellis, Archivist  
Galt Museum & Archives  
Based on the work of Alex Johnston

### Native People and the Coming of European Traders

The Lethbridge region formed part of the homeland of the Blackfoot Confederacy, who resisted European penetration of their territory until the 1860s. The Blackfoot Confederacy comprised three nations: “Sik-si-kah” or Blackfoot, “Kai’nah” or Many Chiefs and now called the Bloods, and “Pi-ku’ni” or Scabby Robes and now called the Piegans. Collectively, they were known as “Sow-ki’tapi” or Prairie People. European fur traders along the North Saskatchewan River first came into contact with the Blackfoot, and applied their name to the entire Confederacy.



*People of the Blood Tribe  
camped at the Lethbridge and District Exhibition grounds.  
Photographer: Arthur Rafton-Canning. 1912.*

In 1869 the American Army outlawed trade in alcohol with Native people in Montana. American traders looked to Canada for new opportunities. John J. Healy and Alfred B. Hamilton took advantage of the newly created North West Territories, and in December 1869 finished Fort Hamilton near the junction of the St. Mary and Belly (now Oldman) Rivers. Native article of these posts was ‘whiskey’, usually made of pure alcohol adulterated with ingredients such as river water, chewing tobacco and lye. The whiskey trade did great harm to Native people and their culture, which flourished for 10,000 years before the arrival of the whiskey traders.

The excesses of the whiskey trade peaked with the 1873 massacre of Assiniboine Indians by Americans in the Cypress Hills. The Canadian government resolved to stop the trade. Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald formed the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) in 1874, and sent them west to establish order. The NWMP arrived at Fort Whoop-Up on 9 October 1874, and soon after ended the whiskey trade.

In September 1877 the Blackfoot Confederacy signed Treaty No. 7. Fifty thousand square miles of Blackfoot territory passed to the Dominion of Canada. In 1883 the Blood people chose the region between the St. Mary and Belly Rivers as their reserve.

### Coal

Lethbridge was founded on three economic pillars: coal mining, railways and irrigated agriculture. Of these, coal was the first.

Coal outcrops were so frequent in the vicinity of what is now Lethbridge that the Blackfoot gave the region the name “Sik-okotoks”, or Place of Black Rocks. By the late 1860s the traders were also aware of the abundance of coal here. American adventurer and entrepreneur Nicholas Sheran began to mine a coal seam on the west side of the Belly (Oldman) River, about 460 metres north of the present Whoop-Up Drive. Sheran sold his coal to traders from Fort Benton, Montana and to the newly arrived North West Mounted Police.

In 1879 Elliott Torrance Galt visited Nicholas Sheran at his mine. Galt lost no time in advising his father, Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt, of the potential of a mining operation. The elder Galt was interested in the idea because he knew that a trans-continental railway was to be built on a route across the southern prairies. The railway and the settlers it would bring would make a profitable market for coal.

Sir Alexander Galt hired William Stafford and Captain Nicholas Bryant to examine five possible sites for a large coal mining operation. The site they all chose was across the river from Sheran's mine. On 13 October 1882 Stafford and a group of Nova Scotia miners opened the first drift mine of the North Western Coal & Navigation Company (NWC&NCo.).

Sir Alexander Galt created the company with the participation of English investors. The NWC&NCo. was capitalized at \$250,000 and the biggest shareholder, publisher William Lethbridge, became its first president.

Once coal was being mined, the next problem was transporting it to the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) main line at Dunmore Junction, east of Medicine Hat. The railway wanted 3,000 tons per month from the NWC&NCo. In 1883-1884 riverboats were tried as a means of hauling coal to market. The boats – Alberta, Baroness and Minnow – were plagued by low water and strong currents to the point that they were discarded in favour of construction of a narrow gauge railway. Sir Alexander Galt received government help to build the narrow gauge line from Lethbridge to Dunmore Junction, and it was officially opened by the Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne, on 24 September 1885.

Coal was lifted up to the narrow gauge railway from the drift mines by means of an inclined railway. However, shaft mines were soon started at prairie level. By 1900 about 150 men were employed and they mined about 300 tons of coal daily. Coal production peaked during World War 1, when 2,000 miners in 10 large mines extracted 1,000,000 tons of coal a year. The coal industry gradually declined after 1919 with the development of oil and natural gas resources. The last mine at Lethbridge, Galt No. 8, closed in 1957 and the entire industry collapsed when the mine at Shaugnessy closed in 1965.

The end of mining doesn't mean that there isn't any coal left in southern Alberta. All of the mines in the region extracted only a fraction of the available coal. The seam still lies about 300 feet deep over an area of about 400 square miles. Estimates are that about 800 million tons of coal is still there to be mined.



*Second Galt Hospital Building 1910 - 1914*

## **Lethbridge Municipal History**

When the community was founded in October 1882, it was called "The Coal Banks" or "Coalbanks" after the original Blackfoot name. The Post Office assigned the name Coalhurst, however, the settlement's residents were already calling the place Lethbridge after NWC&NCo. President William Lethbridge. The Post Office resisted, as there was already a town in Ontario called Lethbridge. In the end, the citizens prevailed and the community was officially renamed Lethbridge on 15 October 1885

In 1890 the North West Territories legislature passed Ordinance No. 24 that provided for the incorporation of Lethbridge as a town. Lieutenant Governor Joseph Royal signed the proclamation on 15 January 1891. The town's first Mayor, by acclamation, was Charles Alexander Magrath.

City status for Lethbridge came with an Act of the Legislature of Alberta on 9 May 1906. Mayor George Rogers presided over the first meeting of Lethbridge City Council on 26 May 1906.

## Agriculture

Agriculture is the third pillar upon which Lethbridge was built. It evolved as the result of assistance provided to the Galts by the Canadian government for construction of the narrow gauge railway. The assistance took the form of land grants totaling 1.5 million acres south of Lethbridge. The land was to be sold by the Galts to pay for their railway.

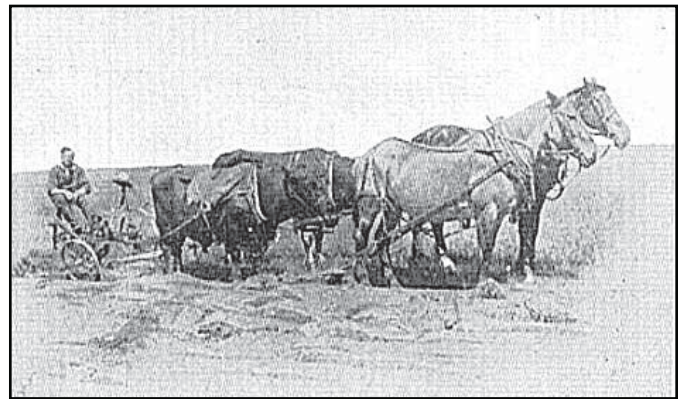
The land given to the Galts is semi-arid, and the challenge was to make it attractive to settlers. Irrigation was the obvious answer. Elliott Galt and his brother-in-law Charles A. Magrath organized the Canadian North West Irrigation Company (CNWICo.) to carry forward their plan of irrigating the lands of southern Alberta. Magrath and Galt also turned to the leading experts on irrigation in North America – the Mormon farmers of Utah.

Mormon leader Charles Ora Card first came to southern Alberta in 1886, and in 1887 purchased land from the NWC&NCo. near the St. Mary and Waterton Rivers. Settlers from Utah followed. Elliott Galt and the Mormon Church concluded an agreement in 1898 that saw church members build the main canal from the St. Mary's River to Lethbridge, with branches to Stirling and Magrath. In return for these 95 miles of canals, the CNWICo. paid the workers half in land scrip and half in cash. Charles Ora Card ploughed the first furrow for the project on 26 August 1898, and on 4 September 1900 the main canal reached Lethbridge.

There have been five milestones in the development of irrigation in southern Alberta. First, many small projects involving no more than a few acres each were built in the years 1877 to 1895. Next came the large company projects engineered by the Galt companies, CPR and others during the period 1898 to 1915. Third, user-owned and operated irrigation schemes such as the Taber and Lethbridge Northern Irrigation Districts came into existence after passage of the Irrigation Districts Act in 1915. The end of World War 2 in 1945 brought more large projects such as the St. Mary River Development project. The final milestone was the development of pivot irrigation systems that allowed irrigation of rougher land than could be irrigated before.

The history of dryland agriculture has been the struggle to find methods to combat southern Alberta's semi-arid climate and incessant winds. Four principles have evolved: break the velocity of the wind by farming in strips; keep the soil covered by dead or living vegetation; keep bare soil lumpy or ridged; and, stop active erosion by whatever emergency means are available.

The Agriculture Canada Research Station at Lethbridge had much to do with the development of these principles. The Station is the largest regional agricultural research facility in Canada.



Agriculture has become the mainstay of the regional economy. In 1996 there were 11,216 farms in southern Alberta with a capital value of 11.3 billion dollars. Over 130 businesses processed food or feed for markets here and around the world.

## Lethbridge and War

Lethbridge made important contributions in both World Wars, and the Korean Conflict. About 2,600 men signed up for military service in World War 1; 261 died. The city had the highest percentage enlistment of any community in Canada.

World War 2 saw 1,750 enlist in the armed forces. One hundred twenty-two never returned. The city's airport, Kenyon Field, was transformed into stations of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan: No 5 Elementary Flying Training School (1940-1941) and No. 8 Bombing & Gunnery School (1941-1944).

German prisoners of war were interned at Camp 133 in north Lethbridge from 1942 to 1946. The 12,500 POWs nearly equaled the population of the city at the time.

## Development

Until 1905 there was no clear regional center in southern Alberta. That changed in November, when the CPR moved the divisional point of its Crownsnest Line from Macleod – now Fort Macleod – to Lethbridge. Changes to straighten and shorten the line were launched soon after. The CPR high level bridge at Lethbridge was the most important part of those plans. At 5,327.625 long and 314 feet high, it is the largest viaduct-type bridge in the world.

Once Lethbridge achieved status as the main marketing, distribution and service center in southern Alberta, a development boom occurred from 1907 to 1913. Municipal improvements in Lethbridge included: a water treatment plant, power plant, streetcar system and exhibition buildings. Real estate prices soared and construction of all kinds moved along at a frantic pace. Lethbridge exploded from its roots as a company mining town to become a full-fledged city.

After World War 1, the city slumped. Development slowed to a crawl for the next 20 years. Drought from 1919 to 1926 emptied many of the farms of southern Alberta, a prelude to the Great Depression of 1929 to 1939. The coal industry began its slow decline after 1919. Only irrigation provided a measure of economic stability in an otherwise bleak time.

It was not until the end of World War 2 in 1945 that Lethbridge experienced its second boom. Irrigation expanded across the region, immigration swelled the city's population and business flourished. Only one new school was built in Lethbridge from 1918 to 1945. Between 1950 and 1970, 23 new schools went up. Lethbridge Community College was founded in April 1957, and the University of Lethbridge opened its doors in 1967.

In the 1980s and early 1990s the city's landscape underwent a fundamental change. The CentreSite Project resulted in the removal of the CPR yards from the center of Lethbridge to Kipp, west of the city. The former railway land became home to a variety of retail, residential and service developments. The rail yards, traditional dividing point of north and south Lethbridge ceased to exist.

The Urban Parks Project was another mega-project that transformed Lethbridge. The riverbottom from Indian Battle Park to the northern boundaries of the city were turned into a series of parks, with varying levels of recreational facilities. Also included in the Urban Parks plan was renovations and additions to the Sir Alexander Galt Museum and Archives, completed in 1985.

In recent years, the southeast corner of Lethbridge has seen an explosion of residential and commercial growth. The west side is also growing again with the construction of Paradise Canyon, RiverStone, and SunRidge subdivisions. The demographics of the city are changing as well, as more and more senior citizens are calling Lethbridge home.

The future of Lethbridge and southern Alberta lies in a mix of the traditional – agriculture and agriculture related business – and the new economic impact of our aging population.



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