

UELAC

CALGARY BRANCH SPRING NEWSLETTER: 2024

Editors: Linda McClelland and Suzanne Davidson



**UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

Calgary Branch

On Saturday, April 13 we gathered for our Spring meeting at the Knox Presbyterian Church.

Our Speaker was Doug Coats, a Calgary historian. His presentation was on Railways and their influences on Calgary's growth.



Some screen shots follow on pages 7 to 10.

The presentation was recorded and is available for about two more weeks at

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/AO8Vj8GXaS3ruUQb3ovBFWw7IYMNeY9qws2YfZWzvEh2B9vZ6gSzWxXYo_tZ3VRR.1E2Jn2Q6zhkYsTky

Passcode: cuAkqH.9

I have sent a share of the recording for uploading to the Presentations page of the membership login for uelac.ca. That will make it available to all members for a longer period of time.

MINUTES: UELAC CALGARY BRANCH SPRING AGM APRIL 13, 2024

Present:

Pat Brown, Doug Coats, Suzanne Davidson, Murray Hanna, George Himann, Susan Himann, Barbara Hongisto, David Hongisto, Wayne Hovdestad, Charlie Lund, Linda McClelland, Ian McIlreath, Gord Miller, Bill Simpson, Karen Stevenson, Sharon Terray, Janice Tye

ZOOM: Beatrice Aucoin, Jacquie McGowan, Ivy Trumpour



Wayne Hovdestad, Pat Sadler Brown, Janice Tye, Murray Hanna



Karen Stevenson, Gord Miller, Charlie Lund, Bill Simpson, Ian McIlreath



Susan Himann, George Himann, Suzanne Davidson, Barbara Hongisto, Sharon Teray, Karen Stevenson

Suzanne welcomed us all and introduced everyone before we sang the Royal Anthem.

We enjoyed a lovely luncheon.

PRESENTATION



Karen introduced Doug Coats and he gave a most interesting presentation on trains in Calgary with all the historical detail! It was much appreciated.



Doug Coats presenting

MINUTES of AGMs from Apr. 29, 2023 and Sept. 30, 2023



Linda moved and Pat seconded for them to be adopted; they were accepted unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



There are at present no new potential members' certificates to work on. Beatrice will continue monitoring and posting on our Facebook page. Suzanne is adding to the website periodically..

TREASURER'S REPORT



At present, there is \$4300 in the bank with some outstanding luncheon fees to come.

MEMBERSHIP



We have 44 memberships with 56 people in total. That is a small increase from our last meeting.

UPDATE ON JESSE BIGELOW'S BANNER IN LETHBRIDGE

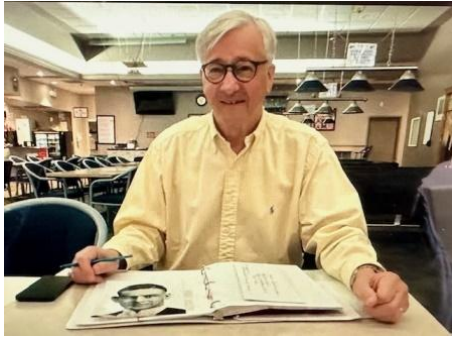


Pat gave us some information on Jesse Bigelow. She found that he had been wounded in World War 1. Pat's info will go on our website. Barbara moved and Gord seconded that we pay Pat \$250 for the cost of the banner. It was passed so David gave her the money to cover that.

A summary of Jesse Bigelow's life and the banner will be posted to the Lethbridge Legion's website. A connection will be added to our website.

The summary of Jesse Kenneth Bigelow's life to be posted follows.

Jesse Kenneth Bigelow was born August 28th, 1897 in Wales, Ontario. He was the descendant of Jesse Bigelow, a Loyalist of the War of 1776 and who sought refuge in Ontario in 1790. At the age of 19 Jesse Kenneth Bigelow enlisted on August 31, 1916 in the Canadian Army in Barriefield, Ontario to participate in WW 1. Sent to France, he served with the 46th Battery Canadian Expeditionary Force from December 17th, 1916 to March 27th, 1917 and then the 45th Battery CEF from March 27th, 1917 until he was wounded on August 29th, 1918 when a bullet shattered his leg. Jesse had served at Vimy, Paschendale and Amiens. He was in hospital until September 9th, 1919 during which he had six operations and was finally discharged from the military in the rank of Bombardier on June 21st, 1920. He went on the study medicine at Queen's University in Kingston and graduated in 1924. He then interned at Bellevue Hospital New York. Following his marriage to Harriet T. Smith in 1927 they settled initially in Taber, Alberta before moving to Lethbridge in 1929. He worked for many years at the Galt Hospital as a surgeon and family physician before co-founding the Bigelow Fowler Clinic in Lethbridge. Harriet and Dr. Bigelow had one daughter, Cynthia Ann. Jesse died in Lethbridge on May 2nd, 1989 at the age of 91.



Ray Romses is working on the Bigelow banner to be put up from October 1 to November 11.

To see more about these banners, **google** **lethbridgeveteransbanners.ca** and click on banners and then on a name.

Calgary Branch UELAC will also be on the banner. Pat has certainly worked hard on getting this done!! Perhaps we will consider making banners for other ancestors.

UPDATE ON HISTORY AWARD AT U OF L AND U OF C.



Ian explained that our \$25000 which was donated to the University of Lethbridge was matched and the U of L's prize is \$2000. At University of Calgary, our prize is \$700, since the timing to increase the amount is more difficult. This amount is revisited every spring and should increase for the next recipient.

CONFIRMATION OF THE BRANCH OFFICERS

The present Board remains. Gord moved and Wayne seconded that we accept the present Board. All agreed. We could advertise for new Board members as well.

Our Board is

President: Suzanne Davidson

Secretary: Barbara Hongisto

Treasurer: David Hongisto

Membership: Bill Simpson

Newsletter: Linda McClelland

Directors: Pat Brown (Lethbridge), Ian McIlreath (Awards), Karen Stevenson and Ivy Trumpour
Beatrice Aucoin will continue with Facebook but not as an official Director

DOMINION CONFERENCE

The national AGM is May 11 on Zoom. Suzanne will send out info on proxies for that meeting.

The conference is in Cornwall the first weekend in June, the 6th to 9th.

We ended the meeting with the singing of O CANADA.

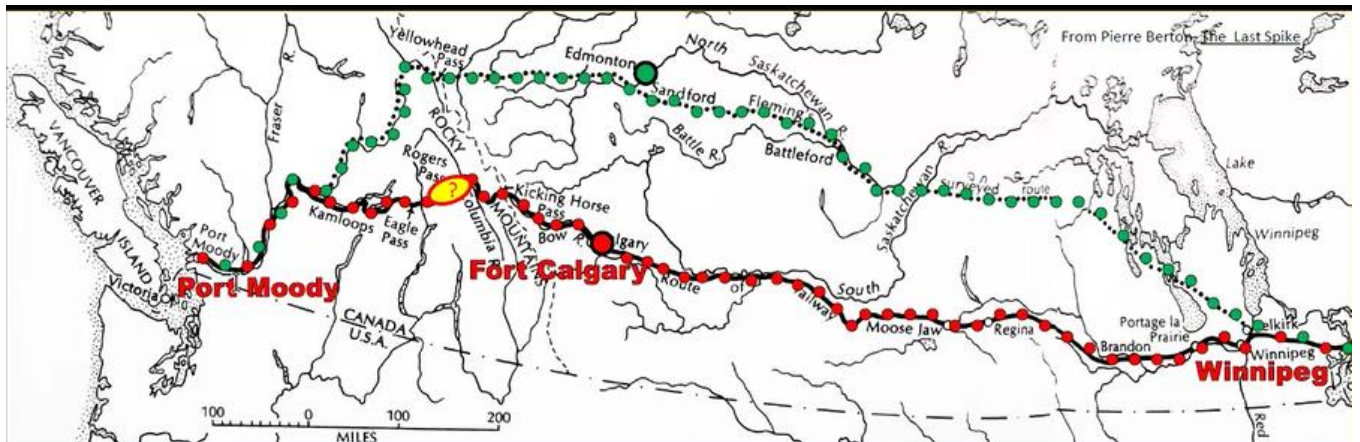
OUR SPRING PRESENTATION

Calgary and the Railways by Doug Coats

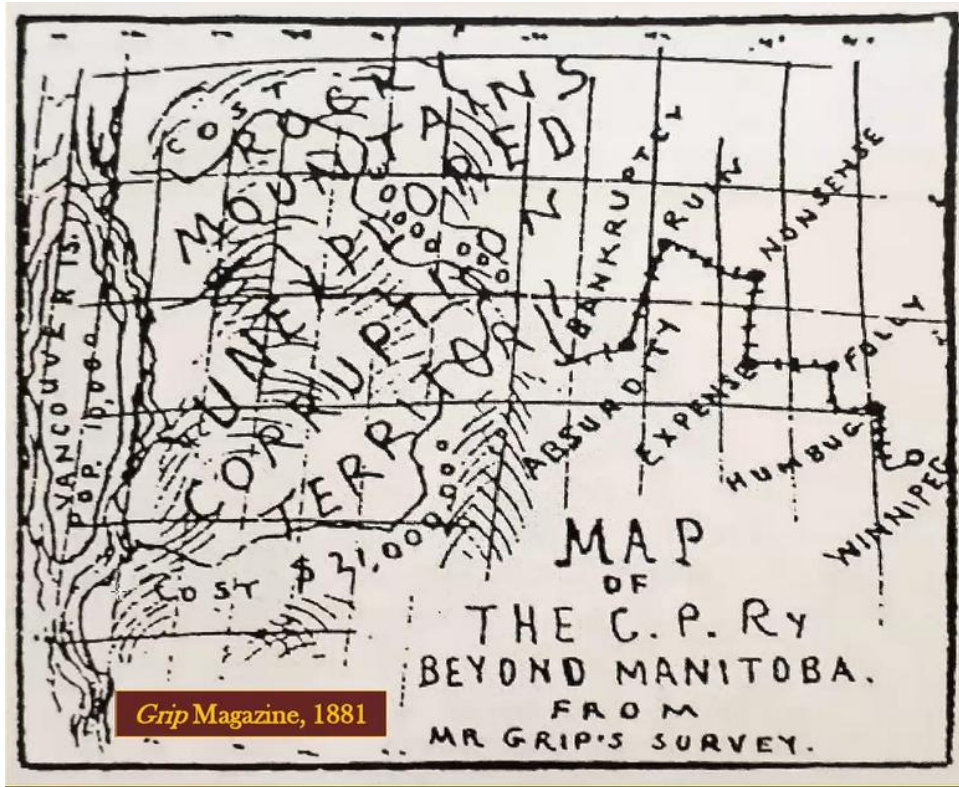
The information was presented in Chapters

- 1 Surprise! You're getting a railway
- 2 CPR Town
- 3 New railways: Canadian Northern, Grand Trunk Pacific
- 4 Wars: Boer and WW1 WW2 method of transportation
- 5 Visitors: Royalty and others
- 6 Big changes: end of steam in 1957
- 7 Last Train out January 1990
- 8 Today freight moving hub and in 1996 head office was moved from Montreal to Calgary, then CPKC

The route across Canada to the Pacific. Original proposal was through Edmonton (green line) but further south was preferred (red line). That meant the railway would pass through Calgary and therefore the Rogers Pass. Initially this was unknown territory so surveying was required.



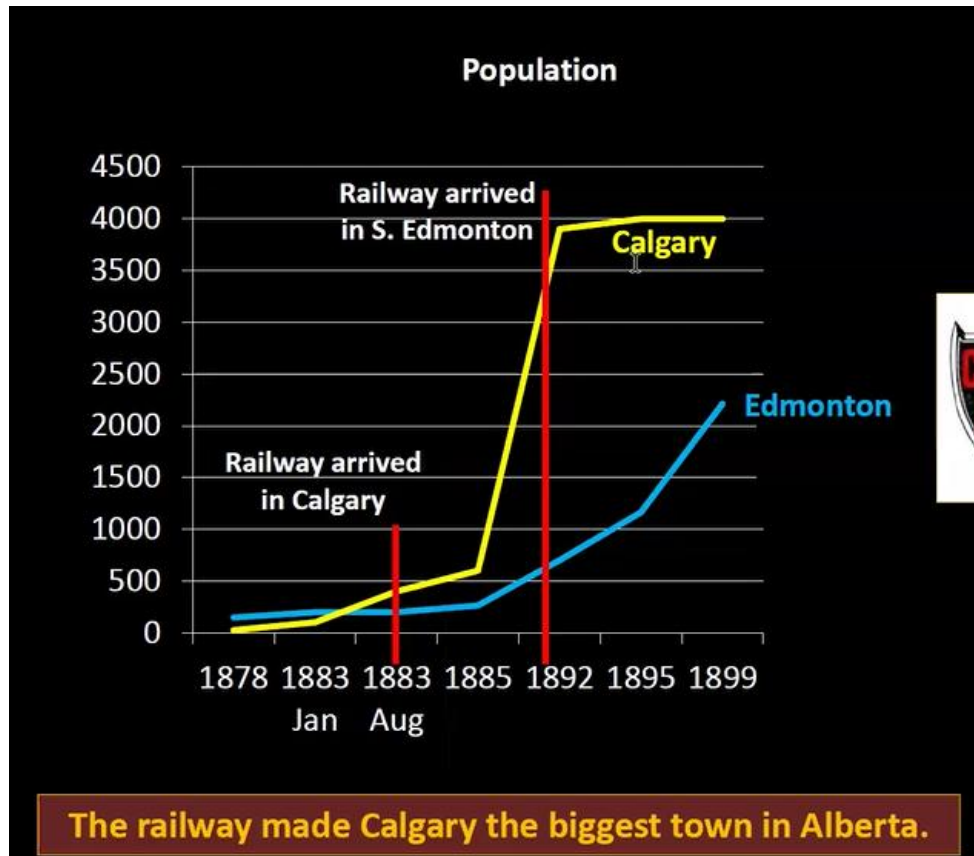
Some cartoons resulted from this choice as in Grip Magazine in 1881. Note the names on the way to Roger's Pass.



This car was used by Langdon and Sheppard during construction in Calgary in 1883. The last sidings before Calgary were named after them. It also was at the last spike ceremony at Craigellachie, BC. It is the only car remaining from those early days. You may recognize it now as it is at Heritage Park.



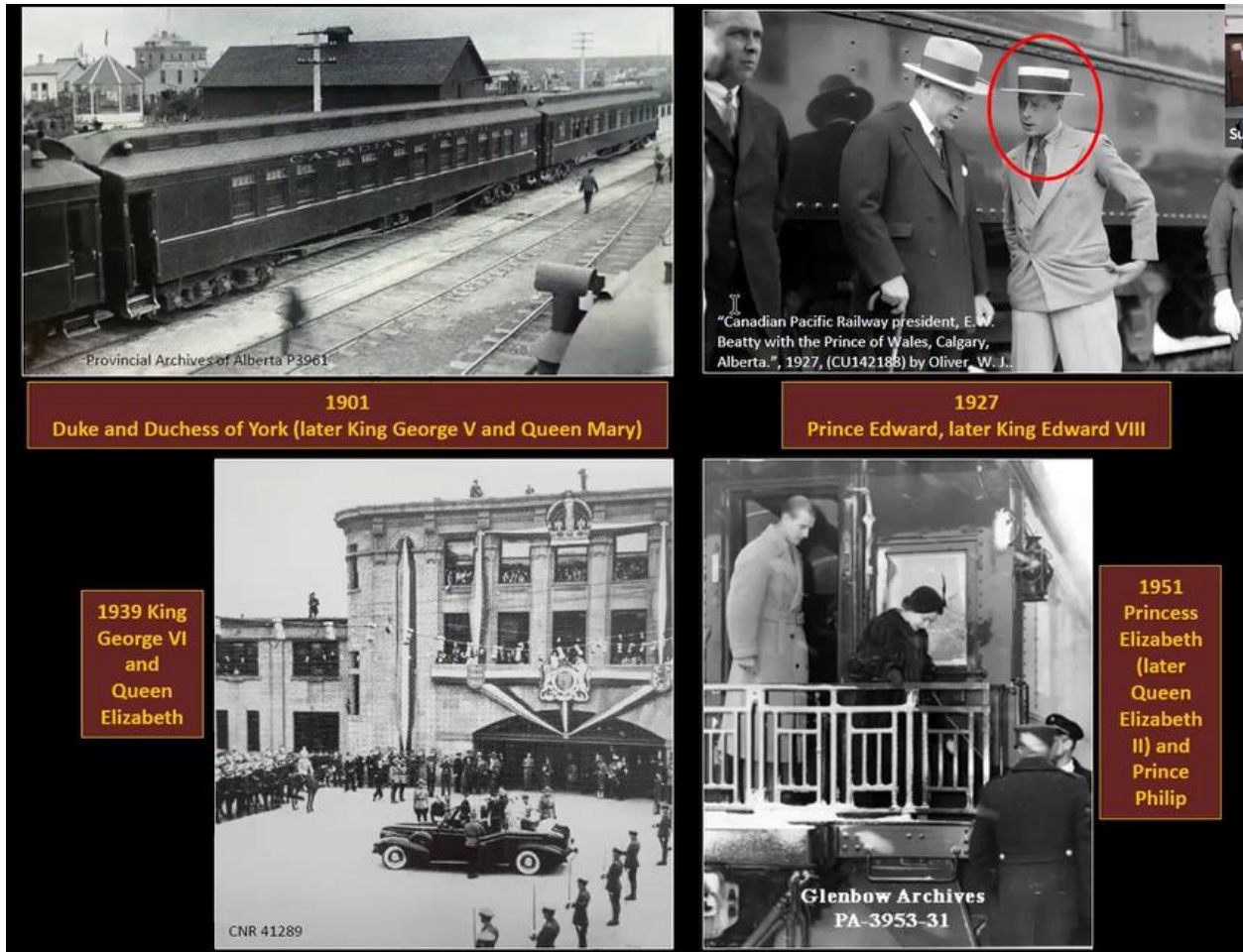
The affect of the railways on the population of Calgary and Edmonton are shown in the following graph



The Official Car 33 shown below was used during the inspection tour of William Van Horne. He hosted Father Lacombe on it since Father Lacombe was instrumental in persuading the Blackfoot to allow the railway to pass through their land.



A number of prominent visitors arrived in Calgary by travelling on the railway such as those shown below.



The conclusion of the presentation was that the railways influenced Calgary in many ways and continue to do so. Some of these include population growth and positioning of the town, streets, grid system, industrial areas, level crossings, underpasses and Chinatown. The CPR and now Canadian Pacific Kansas City has its head office and system dispatch centre here.

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE DONOR CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, April 24 the University of Lethbridge had a reception for those who donated funds to provide awards. It was held at the Science Commons Atrium on the campus.

David Hongisto, Barbara Hongisto and Suzanne Davidson attended the celebration as representatives of our branch. The reception comprised of many hors d'oeuvres, beverages, music, tables showing student achievements and projects and thank you speeches by student and university leaders. Vignettes from the University production of Jesus Christ Superstar were also performed. Below are a couple of pictures.

