

Fort Macleod to Waterton Lakes National Park, AB

Canada Day, 2018. Time to go to the fort in Fort Macleod, AB.

We arrived well ahead of the first presentation of the morning. As we walked through the museum, I took pictures of a model of the fort as it was originally and as it is today as a museum.



It's been a while since I've seen an RCMP officer in full dress uniform.



Henrietta Muir Edwards
1849-1931 Women's Rights Activist and Reformer

Henrietta Muir Edwards

Selected Biography

- 1849 - Henrietta Muir is born to an upper middleclass family in Montreal, QC
- 1875 - Henrietta and her sister start a Working Women's Association teaching job skills to women in Montreal
- 1876 - marries Dr. O.C. Edwards
- 1883 - establishes the first Canadian magazine for working women entitled, Women's Work in Canada
- 1883 - a celebrated artist, Henrietta exhibits five works at the Art Association of Montreal and became an honorary member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Art
- 1893 - established the National Council of Women with Lady Aberdeen and serves as Convener for 35 years
- 1897 - co-founds the Victorian Order of Nurses and appointed chair of the Provincial Council of Alberta
- 1903 - family moves to Macleod
- 1908 - compiles a summary of Canadian laws pertaining to women and children by the request of the Canadian government
- 1910 - lobbies for first version of Dower Acts in Alberta
- 1916 - became the first women asked to review public policy in Canada and advises the government to establish departments of Public Health and Child Welfare
- 1929 - along with the Famous Five, wins the fight to have women legally seen as 'persons' in Canada
- 1931 - passes away from pneumonia at the Macleod Municipal Hospital

Life in Macleod



In Spring of 1903, women's rights activist and reformer, Henrietta Muir Edwards, boarded the Canadian Pacific Railway for Macleod, NWT from Toronto, ON to join her husband Dr. Oliver C. Edwards. Her husband was the newly appointed physician for the Blood and Peigan reservations. Henrietta and her husband came to Macleod with only two horses, a cow and some furniture. A legal expert and advocate, Henrietta mounted a campaign for dower rights and homesteading privileges for women within her first year of arriving to Macleod.

On November 10, 1931, Henrietta Muir Edwards passed away from pneumonia at the Macleod Municipal Hospital.

The "Famous Five"

Henrietta Muir Edwards was the oldest member of Alberta's Famous Five women who fought a legal and political battle to have women recognized as persons under the British North America Act (BNA Act). Under the Act, women were not recognized as persons in matters of rights and privilege. Because of this, no woman could legally sit on the Canadian Senate.

Outraged, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney and Irene Parby signed a letter on August 27, 1927 to petition the Supreme Court to allow women to be 'persons' under the law. Seven months later, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld their ruling that women were not 'qualified persons' according to Section 24 of the BNA Act. This did not stop the Famous Five who took their fight to the highest government authority at the time, the Privy Council in England. To a packed courtroom on October 18, 1929, Lord Sankey overturned the Supreme Courts decision and ruled that women were in fact persons under the law and could sit on the Canadian Senate.

Henrietta Muir Edwards

Edwards family, 1900 Ottawa, Ontario
Henrietta and Dr. Edwards with their children William, Margaret and Alice

Images courtesy of the Wingspread Ranch, Peace River, Alberta

Okay, ready to fire the cannon! Five ex-military gentlemen, dressed in period attire, explained and demonstrated the procedure involved in firing the cannon as well as firing their rifles. This was very interesting and very noisy!

After the presentation, I asked the sergeant how quickly the cannon could be fired back in the day. "About a minute" he said. He went on to explain that the powder charges were wrapped in heavy cotton-like material. It was important to clean out the barrel after each firing. "You can imagine what would happen if a small piece of material was still burning when new powder charges were rammed into position." These 9-lb cannons had a maximum range of 2 kms. The firing of the period rifles was equally as loud.



The riders for the musical ride entered the fort. A local dignitary thanked the numerous people involved in today's celebrations. Then the Canadian flag was raised and we sang O Canada and God Save the Queen. Been a while since I have sung either and I was surprised that I remembered most of the words.



Next up was the Musical Ride. The audience moved from the fort to the riding ring. It was nice that the weather cooperated. We sat in the sunshine and eagerly awaited the "ride".

Fort Macleod has its own troop of riders who perform the musical ride every day during the summer. In period costume and on well groomed quarter horses, these young people, ages 16-24, did a superb job.



Around noon, we left the festivities and headed back to camp. Tomorrow we head for Waterton Lakes National Park.

We left the next morning, Monday July 2, for Waterton Lakes National Park. The weather was clear; the wind had not yet started to blow. We no sooner turned onto Hwy 3 heading to Pincher Creek and the heavens opened.

By the time we got to Pincher Creek the rain had stopped. The sun was shining as we walked into the Walmart Supercentre to stock up on supplies.

Driving down Hwy 6, we passed one roadside turnout. It was too small, so we continued on. Almost at the turning for the park, we stopped at a roadside turnout. As we had coffee, we admired the views.

Waterton Natural History Association

The Waterton Natural History Association works closely with Parks Canada to help the public appreciate, enjoy and learn about Waterton Lakes National Park. Created in 1983, it is a not-for-profit cooperating association that operates a Heritage Centre in the park community and the Crooked Creek Campground outside the park. Campground revenues are used to support their initiatives. The Association creates informative products and services such as publications, displays and special events. The Heritage Centre bookstore also provides information, maps and guides about the park.

Want to know more?  Visit www.wnha.ca

Where the Mountains Meet the Prairie

Wind, Water & Wilderness

It's an unusual day if you're standing here on this ridge and not feeling the wind in your face. Winter chinooks can blow over 100 km/hour and move the temperature from -16°C to +15°C in thirty minutes! From here, rising rescue searchlights, nearly unchanged since 1933, combed here, across all the lower slopes of the mountains in Waterton Lakes National Park. Beyond, are the peaks of Glacier National Park, Montana. This is a dynamic, intermountain ecosystem, wild and diverse. Roughly 100,000 years ago, there was no meaning to the wind, water, wilderness and wildlife of this landscape. Your enjoyment of this special landscape brings an interest in the millions of years it has been in the making.

Cooperation & Conservation

This is a place where people, prairie and country meet. Aboriginal people have lived here for more than 11,000 years. Today, many people live or visit here, and ranching, forestry, recreation and the energy industry are significant activities. Maintaining varied uses of the land while conserving the ecosystem, is a challenge. Fortunately, a tradition of stewardship supports the landscape. The neighbouring national parks joined in 1982 to form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, dedicated to peace and cooperation. The concept of cross-working relationships. Successful collaborations between individuals and groups such as land clubs, watershed groups, the Native Conservancy of Canada, Cross-Manager Partners, Waterton Rodeo and Horse Association and Waterton Natural History Association continue to sustain the landscape.



What you cannot really see in the picture above are all the wild flowers in the grass.

Continuing our drive to the park, the views were even more dramatic.



As we drove, there were wildflowers everywhere; on the side of the road, in the meadows, everywhere.

We drove through the town of Waterton (elev: 4,232') to the campground. As we pulled up to the booth, every type of available camping: tent, serviced, power, etc., showed FULL. This is holiday Monday, everybody should be heading home!! Not so; it's July and summer holidays are upon us.

The young man (Clay) at the booth was very helpful. I mentioned we just needed power so we could charge Jen's wheelchair. I'm glad I did 'cause we were directed to a handicapped site – A16 for two nights!

We did a tour of the town as the wind blew. Boy can it blow here! And the weather can change so quickly.

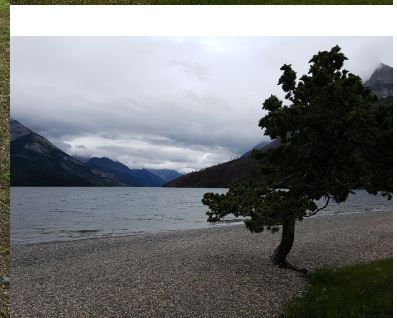




At the campground, we watched a family attempt to raise their tent. They gave up, it was blowing so hard. An hour or so later they successfully erected their tent.

We had picked up a whole chicken for dinner at Walmart. I got our Cabela's table out and set it up on the lee of the trailer, out of the wind. I fired up the bbq and it started to rain. Ugh! I packed everything away, came inside and after about an hour of cooking, we enjoyed fried chicken and "roasted" veggies.

The forecast for today (Tuesday July 3) is for afternoon thundershowers. We decided to go for a walk along the lake. Last year's forest fire got awfully close to town!





At the far end, we turned and walked back towards town. We enjoyed a coffee at Welch's Chocolate Shop along with a chocolate/toffee cookie or three.

Back at the rig, I decided it was time to write about the last couple of days. Of course, after I had everything documented, Jen suggested we go for an afternoon walk.

We walked through the campground, then Jen remembered Cameron Falls, within walking distance, so off we went. While Jen waited, I walked across the bridge and up to the observation area.



Tomorrow we head towards Vulcan, on our way to Drumheller and the dinosaur exhibits there.
See you tomorrow.