



Macleod Gazette



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FORT MACLEOD WAS FOUNDED IN 1874 WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE
FORT MACLEOD, ALBERTA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

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NEWS



Art gala

The work of student artists was celebrated during a gala event in Fort Macleod.

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NEWS



Memories

Judy Van Dellen is pleased a plaque marks the spot of a church.

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NEWS



Volunteer

Jill Burrows was a finalist for a provincial volunteer award.

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WINNING FORM



Photo by Frank McTighe

Kobe Whitford of Cut Bank, Mont. showed championship form Friday night at the Fort Macleod Midnight Stadium Agriplex. Whitford won the Bull Riders Canada event before a large crowd. Photos, Page 12.

End of an era for MAE Belles

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

As they have for 75 years, the MAE Belles took care of business during their meeting Friday at the REO Hall.

This was a meeting like no other in the women's club formed in 1948, as it marked the end of the organization.

In one of the final acts of business, the MAE Belles voted to file for dissolution as a society, citing low membership and the declining state of the Ardenville Hall.

"There's nobody left to do the work anymore," MAE Belles president Edith Evans said.

Just eight members were at the final meeting to wind up club business, including dispersing more than \$13,000 to local organizations.

Earlier this year the club sold the Ardenville Hall, the former school building the MAE Belles operated as a social centre.

Evans said it has been difficult to wind down the affairs of the MAE Belles.

Every time a drawer is opened, there is a photo or document or some other piece of memorabilia that reminds the present members of people and events associated with the MAE Belles.

Well over 100 women have belonged to the club since it was formed in 1948, with MAE an acronym for the disbanded McBride, Ardenville, and Ewelme school districts.

The first meeting of the MAE Belles was held on Nov. 16, 1948 at Ellen Chester's house when nine women met to discuss forming a handicrafts club in conjunction with the Hazelmere Beavers Club.

The minutes of that first meeting note such decisions as the election of Beth Fraser as president, Ellen Chester as secretary-treasurer and Eva Chester as reporter.

Members agreed upon a 50-cent membership fee, plans for a Christmas gift exchange at the next meeting, and to hold meetings at 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

Each hostess was to have two helpers, with lunches "kept simple" consisting of not more than two kinds of sandwiches, cakes, cookies — "and pickles if desired."

The MAE Belles encountered people who doubted that a women's group would endure, but the club persevered and has served the community in many ways.

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Curling club set to celebrate 125th anniversary

FRANK MCTIGHE
GAZETTE EDITOR

Artifacts, photos, history and rock stars will highlight the Fort Macleod Curling Club's 125th anniversary celebration this weekend.

The club has organized two action-packed days of activities to mark the milestone anniversary.

"Everything is going well," club president Sherri Zoeteman said. "I'm really happy how the community has come on board."

Zoeteman said it is important to celebrate the curling club's place in the sports and social fabric of Fort Macleod.

The club has brought people together from town and district for 125 years, providing physical activity along with socializing.

"We are very proud of this building," Zoeteman said of the club. "We are very proud of the members. There is so much history."

Much of that history will be on

display Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27-28 thanks to the work of Judy Walde and Cathy Park, who spent countless hours searching *The Macleod Gazette* archives and other sources.

"I can't say enough about our historians," Zoeteman said. "Both Cathy and Judy have put in a lot of hours."

Panels depicting the club's history in 10-year intervals from 1898 to present day will be set up in the lobby and the arena warm room upstairs.

Because of their close association, Granum curling history will also be showcased.

The history will also be published in a small book that will be distributed during the anniversary celebration.

There will also be videos running throughout the weekend filled with interviews of people associated with the Fort Macleod Curling Club in the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

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