



HERITAGE TOUR

HERITAGE TOUR OF



Working on this tour of some of the beautiful and important buildings in Indian Head has been a pleasure and a challenge. Of course, there are many more stories than we could ever tell in this little booklet. Therefore, we welcome further information about buildings that have played a significant role in our community. Please contact the town office.

We especially thank the present owners of the walking tour properties for their cooperation and their stories. We could not have done it without them.

Finally, we request that those taking part in the tour respect the privacy of the homeowners and view residences from the sidewalk or street.

A map located in the centre of this guide has the corresponding number for each building to help guide you on your tour. This map is the work of Shannen Cawthorne.

More information on the Town of Indian Head can be found in the local history book *History of Indian Head and District*, found at the local library or at www.ourroots.ca. To download copies of this tour, visit: www.townofindianhead.com

Thanks to the Saskatchewan Archives for some of the heritage photos. The photo of the Bell barn is from the William Notman Collection, McCord Museum V1388

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1. 201 Grisdale Road: Still Known as Bishop's Court



With a stroke of his pen, Lord Thomas Brassey replaced (at a cost not to exceed \$6000) Qu'Appelle's original Bishop's Court, in Indian Head. Built in 1895, its main entrance on the east side, the three-storey stone, brick and frame house measured 40 feet by 35 feet. Above the full-sized basement, the ground floor had ten-foot ceilings throughout, as well as bay windows, red-brick fireplaces and beautiful furnishings. Up the narrow stairs were six bedrooms, also with ten-foot ceilings, as well as a balcony and a pull-down ladder allowing access to the unfinished dormered attic.

Bishop's Court was home to Bishop Burn from 1895 to 1896 and Bishop Grisdale until 1911. After that, young clergy and immigrants made Bishop's Court a temporary home. In 1928, thanks to a Church of England settlement scheme that placed over 100 English boys, Brassey hostel was home to a series of 15 to 18 year olds until they found farm work. By 1937, Bishop's Court was converted to a home for aged men and managed by a synod committee. When the town barber, Tom Rath, removed the two top stories in 1959, local Anglicans salvaged the Bishop's Coat of Arms. This 50-square-inch carved wooden crest featuring the cross, a rising sun and a bishop's mitre can be seen in our local museum.

In 1993, Garry and Gloria Bernard did much to salvage the historic building during ten months of renovations. They also added a verandah and landscaped the yard.

Andrea and Dwight Webster, with children Alexa and Rylan, purchased the house and five-acre lot in 2008. They added hardwood floors and refaced the fireplace. Over the years, many visitors have come to the evolving Bishop's Court to recapture past times. DT

2. 211 Otterloo Street: Nestled in a Grove of Trees



In 1901, the Forest Nursery Station was established by the Dominion of Canada one mile south of Indian Head. As tree distributions increased, the station needed an administration building and, in 1919, erected a one-storey red-brick structure at 211 Otterloo. In 1932, a stucco second storey made room for the Dominion Entomological Laboratory.

Pine trees and flower beds also enhanced the site. In 1982, head gardener Cliff Kinney and his assistant Donna Thompson established a permanent, easy-care bed of trees. A tilted bed on the east lawn became home to a fifteen-foot arrangement of pine seedlings in the shape of a pine tree.

Between 1983 and 1984, a new administration building was built on the grounds of the tree nursery, and the town property was purchased for an addictions treatment program. Bedrooms, kitchen and dining room were added on the northwest side of the building. Finally, everything was ready; all the facility needed was a name to identify it. When spring arrived, the tree bed appeared through the snow and became the inspiration for “Pine Lodge”.

On November 10, 1986, the program welcomed its first two clients. Groundskeeper Wayne Elliott presented potted pine seedlings as clients completed their program. Every August, the facility hosts a reunion of previous Pine Lodge guests. (Read more about Pine Lodge in the Indian Head history book, pages 50 – 52.) DT

3. 424 Buxton Street: Built to Last



Brick manufactured in the Qu'Appelle Valley north of Indian Head was used to build this house for Mr. W. F. Johnston, in 1897. The Johnstons had come from the east in 1882, but settled first in the valley. Some say Annie (Lauder) Johnston was the first white woman in the Qu'Appelle Valley. A few years later, during the Riel uprising, she was also one of the few women who did not leave her home. The wedding of Miss Bessie M. Johnston to Mr. Andrew Dickson of Breezy Heights on January 5, 1899, testifies to the charm of the family's Indian Head home.

A gentleman farmer by the name of Adam Davidson owned the house from 1903 until 1946. In 1946, after raising six children, Justin Harvey McCorkindale and his wife, Maude Beach, bought the house for their retirement. One year later, Harvey died. After Harvey's death, Maude stayed in the home until she died in 1962. It then became the home of their son James and his wife, Eva. Jim and Eva McCorkindale operated Mac's Taxi from this location. Even after Thor and Barb Johnson bought the house in 1976, people still came by asking for taxi service.

Although the house has undergone extensive interior renovations, the exterior, with its buff-coloured brick and decorative front veranda and trim, remains relatively unchanged. The exterior walls on the first floor are thirteen inches thick, while the second floor walls, also brick, are nine inches thick. The house's original address was 424 Otterloo, but it was renumbered 424 Buxton in the 1980s. BAW

4. 510 Boyle: Genealogy of “Hewson House”



Jonathon B. Francis, an affluent local farmer, built this large, five-bedroom, wood-frame house in 1903 and completed an addition on the west side in 1910. The house featured a wrap-around veranda on the east and north sides and a small porch. A coal shed on the southeast side stored fuel for the coal-fired boiler providing hot water heat. This shed later became the summer kitchen. The house has been painted white as long as anyone can remember and once had a white rail fence around the entire property. A large barn with doors wide enough for team and wagon to drive inside without being unhitched was destroyed by fire.

The property was purchased in the 1920s by Benjamin F. Holden and inherited by his daughter, Winnifred Hewson, in 1940. While Winnifred's son, Ben, served overseas in WWII, Ben's wife, Myrtle, used the den for her hair dressing salon. A wonderful housekeeper, Winnifred had the original woodwork painted beige every two years to keep it fresh. The dining room table was often pulled out to accommodate more than twenty, who would dine on fare from her fabulous garden. An extra guest was always invited to avoid thirteen at the table. Winnifred's daughter, Fredrica (Freddie), who was courted beside the beautiful jade-green, marble living room fireplace, inherited the house in 1987. After leasing it out for a time, she sold to Keith Peach in 2005. Current owners, Linda Swan and Ralph Mitchell, purchased it in 2007. DS + DT

5. 604 Boyle: Modest yet Venerable



James Conn and wife, Margaret Dixon, moved to the Indian Head district in 1883. A dry farming year followed, so they moved to town and James served as an apprentice in building and construction under Edwin J. Brooks. Conn built this 22-foot by 20-foot home with its quaint peaked corner doorway, flat roof and peaked windows on the northeast corner of Grand and Otterloo, just west of his lumber business. It is said to be the oldest frame house built in Indian Head. The house was moved to 604 Boyle in 1895 to make room for the new Bank of Montreal.

This five-room home has three rooms upstairs, dormered windows and an 8-foot by 10-foot porch. It was home to the Joe Hamblin family for many years. In 1949, they sold to John and Tom Madeley. A succession of Madeley brothers, Bert, Percy and then Frank, lived here until their nephew Herb became the owner. Herb opened the staircase. In 1983, he built a 28-foot by 16-foot garage on the property, making it the biggest building on site. There have been other owners and renters before the current owner, Bob Cody, from Lloydminster. He has re-shingled and replaced windows and will install siding. He will also tackle the tangle of caragana and overgrown lilacs when he retires here. He chose Indian Head as it reminds him of his home province of New Brunswick. AK + DT

6. 706 Boyle: Original Owner Hauled for Middleton



This solid brick house with stone foundation was built in 1912 for Thomas E. Jackson. Jackson himself had homesteaded NE 34-19-13 in 1882, after coming west in a traditional Red River cart. In 1885, during the Riel uprising, he hauled supplies for General Middleton's army, returning to his land when the hostilities were over. In 1889, he married Mary Ellen Irwin. They had seven children, two of whom died in infancy. After Mary Ellen's death and 30 years of farming, Jackson, his second wife, Maria, nee Walker, and family moved into the fine home in town built especially for them. It remained in the Jackson family for two generations, first owned by Thomas E. Jackson, from 1912 to 1937, and then by his son Thomas Irwin Jackson, from 1937 to 1965.

From 1965 to 1975, the home was owned by the federal government under the Veterans' Land Act, a statute that oversaw a program that facilitated the ownership of land by ex-soldiers. During this time, the home was occupied by the Les Fawcett family, before being purchased by Michael and Rahilda Scallion in 1973. Len and Lou Derkson, the present owners, bought the home in 1976 and spent two years renovating before they took residence in November 1977. The exterior remains in its original state. Note the gingerbread trim on the gables. (See photo of original house in the Indian Head history book, page 788). BAW + AB

Gingerbread - showy, elaborate trim.

7. 707 Boyle: Witness for the Dispossessed



Architect Alexander Malcolm Fraser designed and built this house in 1897, the same year that he came, with his family, to Indian Head. Fraser's attention to detail is evident in the spruce-tree-shaped decorations on the eave brackets.

The house was in the Brooks family by 1904. Edwin Jackson Brooks had come from Quebec early in 1882, a time when no local land office existed to file for homesteads. Like many other "squatters," he was forced off the land by Major Bell's Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. A legal battle against Bell Farm was pointless, especially since Lieutenant Governor Edgar Dewdney had shares in the enterprise. Instead of homesteading, therefore, Brooks became a shopkeeper.

In 1885, Brooks was chosen to sit on the Riel trial jury. Brooks said, ". . . it was the unanimous desire of the jury that he (Riel) should not be executed . . . the Government slighted the jury's recommendation and hanged Riel confirm(ing) . . . the execution was firmly resolved upon from the outset." Brooks wrote that John A. Macdonald and Edgar Dewdney were also responsible for the uprising.

After Nellie Brooks died, in 1945, Mrs. Irene Martin bought the house, and then her daughter, Jean Howe, bought it and built the addition to house her mother. Other owners were Don and Marie Liggett, then Jean and Henry Hatherley. Tim and Jane Hogan owned it from 1998 until 2011, when the property, including the original carriage house, was sold to H el ene Giroux. LK

8. 812 Boyle Street: Visited by a Kindly Ghost



Built in 1904, this modest house exudes welcome. The wood siding is original, as are the two stained-glass windows on the main floor. There was a fire in the house shortly after the current owners, Ruth and Jake Reihl, moved in, resulting in significant interior renovations. The double-wide garage, shared with the neighbours, was originally a schoolhouse barn, used for the horses of teacher and students attending a rural school. Built circa 1927, the barn was moved to the present location prior to 1946.

In 1908, H. H. Campkin sold the home to Ike Jackson, who had come to the Wide Awake district with his parents in 1884 when he was twelve years old.

Also coming to the Indian Head area in the 1880s were three brothers: Arnot, Charles and Thomas Hubbs. Thomas Hubbs owned the title to this house for twenty years, from 1916 until 1936, one year before his death.

For the decade following, it was the home of Alice Kate Kennedy, a widow of considerable musical talent. Any day during which she did not spend an hour or more at the piano, was a day lost. She was organist at St. John's Anglican Church.

After her death, Charles Hubbs' son, Leonard, bought the house that had belonged to his Uncle Thomas. Leonard, his wife, Ethelyn, and Ethelyn's mother, Mrs. Tripp, moved from their farm to this house in 1946. The current owners once observed their sleeping daughter's blanket had been pulled up to cover her in her crib. They attribute the kindly gesture to the ghost of "Grandpa" Hubbs. TG + LK

9. 903 Boyle: Unravelling the Connections



Like connections between people, house records are often intertwined. After owning the lot at 903 Boyle for one month in 1905, William Montgomery Tegart, photographer, sold to Henry George Wilberforce Wilson and Elizabeth Edwards Wilson. The Wilsons hired A. M. Fraser to build the distinctive Victorian-style house.

Mr. Wilson, a lawyer honoured with a King's Counsel appointment, had a law office at 609 Grand Avenue. When the Wilsons travelled, Martin and Elizabeth Marshall tended their house and grounds, which included the property next door and a carriage house. The carriage house was eventually moved to 707 Main and is now the home of Brian Chasse.

Since the Wilsons had no children, when Mr. Wilson died, Elizabeth Wilson asked the Marshalls' 17-year-old daughter, Eva, to stay with her while finishing high school. Thankful for the girl's company, Mrs. Wilson paid for Eva to attend business college after graduation.

In 1956, the title went to Mary and John Edward (Jack) Glass, while Edith Anne (Edie) and Leonard S. (Sonny) Huntley bought from the Glasses in 1965. Mary Glass once worked for the Wilsons and Edie Huntley, for the Glasses.

The Glasses owned Glass Brothers Groceries, at 516 Grand Avenue, while Sonny Huntley had a plumbing and heating business a few stores to the south.

Edie Huntley, who still owns the house, had it repainted in the original colours in 2010. The house has had only minor structural changes. LK

10. 910 Boyle: Legacy of Pioneer Druggist



The first owner of 910 Boyle Street was Indian Head's pioneer druggist Alfred G. Orchard. Born in England, he moved with his family to Newcastle, Ontario. Though his father's death meant quitting school at 14 to support his mother and siblings, Orchard found work with a druggist and mentor who encouraged him to take up the profession. After passing the necessary exams, he travelled west in 1891, eager to start a practice. As it happened, Dr. J. W. Kemp, also new to Indian Head, was looking for a druggist.

The two young men not only became colleagues, but "batched" together until their fiancées arrived from Ontario and they were married in a double wedding ceremony.

Orchard opened his drugstore in 1892 and built his fine wood-frame home at 910 Boyle in 1905. In 1907, his mother and siblings joined his growing family. In 1917, the Orchards moved to Regina, where Alfred took up optometry.

Monica and Glen Wotherspoon are the house's fifth owners. The original house, like many of that era, included a verandah. The original trees now tower over the stately home and Monica has made an art of finding flowers and groundcover that thrive in shade. AK

A violent storm in July 2011 tore out several trees and drastically altered the Wotherspoon's front yard.

11. 914 Boyle: House of Many Names



The gracious home chosen to be the Hamoudi residence for the series *Little Mosque on the Prairie* has other names: the Roy Boone house, Dr. McDonald's house, the Robison house and, presently, the Mallory house. However, it was originally built, in 1910, by the Bank of Montreal.

Edward Boone, Roy's father, had claimed land in 1882. He had been part of the MacKay Farming Company, an enterprising partnership which, in 1886, won first prize from a London grain exchange for a hand-picked bushel of Red Fife wheat. When Edward moved back to Toronto, he divided his land between his sons. Roy Boone and family farmed from 1909 until 1919. After 1919, Roy's allergies forced him off the farm. He worked for Ripley's Garage in Indian Head, and he and Frances (Fannie) Boone bought the house on Boyle.

Meanwhile, Roy's mother, also named Frances, moved back west after his father died. She built next door to Roy and Fannie, eventually selling her house to Jimmy Robison and moving in with her son and daughter-in-law. The Boones had three children, and Fannie's parents moved west as well, so it must have been a full house. Roy Boone died in 1945 and Fannie in 1972.

Dr. Hugh McDonald also lived at 914 Boyle, and the house was home to the Allan and Elinor Robison family for 34 years before Frank and Judy Mallory bought it in 1988. AK

12. 1005 Boyle: Funeral Business a Way of Life



The Indian Head History Book refers to the “beautiful old house at the upper end of Boyle Street [that] has been known as the Indian Head Funeral Home since 1942”. The house wasn’t built for that purpose, however. Ralph Todd, a pioneer of the Rose Valley district, was in the process of building this house for his wife and family of seven when he died. His wife, Mrs. Jessie Todd, completed it and moved her family to the home in 1907.

In 1913, the house belonged to Benjamin F. Holden. His daughter, Winnifred, stood in the bay window overlooking Boyle to marry Victor Stanley Hewson. Holden later bequeathed his next home at, 510 Boyle, to her.

The house at 1005 Boyle was later owned by Angus MacKay, first superintendent of the Indian Head Experimental Farm, from 1914 to 1926. Next, William Reed Patterson and his second wife, Evelyn, owned it from 1926 to 1946, when Charles Farrow, owner of a funeral service in Sintaluta, saw the additional potential in the large, gracious structure. In 1959, the Farrow family sold the undertaking business to Wes and Olive Hannah, who sold to Tubman Funeral Homes of Wolseley, in 1974. In 1982, the Tubmans restored the house’s original oak woodwork along with the “quiet dignity” of the building.

The building is one of three houses in Indian Head remarkable for the unusual chamfered brick relief under the second floor eaves. Can you identify the others? AK *Chamfered – with the edge or corner cut off or beveled.*

13. 405 Crawford Street: A Stable Becomes a Home



When the Bank of Montreal built a fine brick home at 1004 Buxton Street (see number 14) for its manager, the property also included a 34-foot by 18-foot wooden livestock barn.

Built in 1907, the barn was rezoned as 405 Crawford Street, as announced on the large flat fieldstone in the front flowerbed. In 1949, Ralph and Inez Dunlop transformed the barn into a cheery yellow-sided house with pots of red geraniums on the front steps and built a 20-foot by 12-foot attached garage on the north side. After Ralph's death, Inez continued to live there until she sold to Darwin Elliott in 1989. He changed the colour to grey and re-shingled the roof.

Craig and Charity Taylor purchased the property in 1996, a first home for daughters Grace and Lily, perhaps influencing Charity's sister Amy Redding and Darcy Gares to buy the "big house" next door later that year. In 2002, the Taylors replaced the windows and added mocha brown siding and white trim. They also made changes as necessary in the kitchen to accommodate modern appliances. During the upgrading, they found old newspapers, sheaves of which had been used as insulation between the walls.

This building sheltered animals for its first forty-two years. For the past sixty-two years, it has been an attractive home, complete with basement and gabled second storey, enjoyed by three families consecutively. DT

14. 1004 Buxton: With Rooms to Spare



In 1903, Indian Head welcomed the Bank of Montreal. A substantial brick home for Mr. Wheatley, the local manager, seemed fitting. The 4500-square-foot house was constructed in 1907, by Smith Bros and Wilson, builders of the Hotel Saskatchewan and the Bessborough Hotel. The orange-red brick exterior is unique in Indian Head. Unique or not, the house would have been demolished when the Bank of Montreal left town, had not Ralph and Inez Dunlop intervened in 1936. The Dunlops renovated and lived there until they moved to 405 Crawford Street, turning their brick house into a boarding house. Dunlop, an employee of the Forest Nursery Station, invented the first tree planter and travelled the Prairie Provinces by rail to encourage the establishment of shelterbelts, earning himself the name “Mr. Shelterbelt.”

The Cooks purchased the house in 1967, converted the house back to a single family dwelling and sold it in 1987 to the Menzies. Darcy Gares and Amy Redding purchased the home in 1997, and continue to renovate, while respecting the house’s heritage character.

Original features include a leaded-glass window and an oversized front door. Some say this was because Mr. Wheatley was a large man. Another novelty is that some of the windows open inwards. Apparently, 1004 Buxton was one of the first homes in town with indoor plumbing, but all occupants of the Dunlops’ boarding house shared a bathroom. The original bathtub is still in use, and the current owners wonder how many people have used it over the years! BN

15. 1100 Buxton Street: A Touch of the Gothic



Current owners, Dana and Dan Beauregard, have a photo of the house “dressed” for the made-for-television production *Stranger in Town*.

This distinctive Queen Anne style house with its wrap-around verandah was built in 1905, another creation by local architect A. M. Fraser. Eli Williamson, who owned many properties in and around Indian Head, purchased the house in 1907 for \$6100.

Although the house has had several owners, it retains a good deal of its original look, both inside and out. Unlike many older gems that have been completely modernized over time, this house still boasts original stained glass windows, fireplace tiles, fixtures and hardware, and original cabinetry and woodwork. The home had indoor plumbing from the time it was built, but there was also an outhouse on the property.

Though the current owners have done some renovations, they have used heritage materials and maintained the original style as much as possible. One of their discoveries during renovations was a 1912 fifty-cent piece.

Both the Beauregards have had unexplained experiences in this house—a cold gust of wind at the top of the servants’ staircase, lights shutting off and the sound of footsteps on the stairs. Perhaps it’s fitting that the house has been featured in a couple of thrillers. Besides *Stranger in Town*, with Harry Hamlin and Graham Greene, there has been *Walled In*, with Mischa Barton. TG

16. 1104 Buxton Street: Green Gables



In 1898, architect A. M. Fraser built this lovely wood-frame house with its ornate attic gable and columned porch. The vertical oval window on the front has its horizontal twin on the side.

The second owner was Harry H. Campkin. Mr. and Mrs. Campkin and their family had lived in the big house on the Bell Farm for some years prior to purchasing this home in 1910.

Although the name “Bell” appears on a concrete block in front of the home, it does not identify a relative of Major William Bell of the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company. Rather, the house was the home of John Allan Bell, who, with his Gaelic-speaking family, arrived in Indian Head in 1904. The Bells resided here from 1916 until 1944. Grace Bell married Gordon Glenn and lived in the stone house at 410 Woodward until 1989, when she died at 92 years of age.

The next owner, Charles Farrow, ran the funeral home in Indian Head. His daughter, Ethel, and her husband, Bert Ellery, lived here from 1950 until 1958.

The house on Buxton was purchased in 1958 by Anton and Antonia Ball, who had been married in 1917, in Odessa, Russia. They moved from the district of Holdfast to a farm north of Indian Head in 1930, arriving with seven children and increasing their family by three after the move. In 1958, the eldest son, Jake, his wife, Rose, and their family left the Livingstone Farm and moved into this spacious home along with parents Anton and Antonia. Anton died in 1961 and Antonia in 1977. The home remains in the Ball family to this day. LK

17. Bell Barn



The famous Bell Farm (originally the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company), established by Major William Robert Bell in 1882, once covered 53,000 acres, and its history is well documented. Rather than try to abbreviate that history here, we encourage you to visit the full-sized replica of the round stone barn, complete with interpretive centre, just north of Indian Head. TG

Local Anecdote:

Hometown of Sinclair Ross

Catherine (Fraser) Ross, mother of famous Canadian writer (James) Sinclair Ross, once lived upstairs at 917 Grand Avenue. Pat (Obleman) Miller, a great-niece of the writer, also remembers visiting “Granny” Ross upstairs at 716 Buxton.

Born in 1908, in Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, Sinclair Ross was seven when his parents separated. He lived with his mother, a housekeeper, on a series of farms near Shellbrook and then Indian Head. Siblings Stewart and Effie lived with their father, Peter Ross. Effie was the mother of Bea Obleman whose daughter is Pat Miller.

Ross attended high school in Indian Head, and then went to work for the Union Bank, later the Royal Bank. He continued his day job even after the 1941 publication of *As for Me and My House*, the precedent-setting classic of Canadian prairie literature. After his retirement in 1968, he spent time in Spain and Greece, and then lived in Vancouver. In 1992, Ross was made a Member of the Order of Canada. He died in 1996 and is buried in the Indian Head Cemetery. Saskatchewan artists and readers honoured him with a monument topped by a bronze sculpture by Joe Fafard and Vic Cicansky. The cairn in front of the library acknowledges the writer's contribution to Canadian prairie literature. DT + AK

18. The Indian Head Cemetery and Chapel



Indian Head's first cemetery was established in 1883 at the northeast corner of town. In 1896, after a particularly wet spring, town officials relocated it to higher ground, three quarters of a mile west.

In 1902, Wasyl Dasko arrived from Poland. While working for the town, he kept careful notes on persons buried and locations of graves. When Arthur Wilfred Leach was mayor and chairman of the cemetery board, he supervised planting trees and suggested a chapel for burial services. This plan came to fruition in 1935, financed by H. G. W. Wilson.

The cemetery chapel is a hexagonal stucco building with beveled-glass piano windows and varnished V-joint lining. An opening in the floor once allowed for the lowering of caskets until final burial.

When mechanical grave equipment made winter interment possible, the chapel fell into disuse and disrepair. Edie Huntley recognized the chapel's bronze plaque that had found its way to the Indian Head museum, and it is now reinstalled on the chapel's outside wall.

In 2003, the cemetery restoration committee began various projects, beginning with a monument to recognize the early graves. Then, green metal replaced cedar shingles, crumbling cement steps were replaced, and other improvements were made. Power from the generator in the adjacent tool shed provided electric lights.

The committee hopes to restore this building to its original beauty, so it can once again be used for simple services and quiet reflection. DT

19. 1017 Grand Ave: Personalities Match Grand Home



In 1895, this stately home was built for J. S. Court, a tall, broad English gentleman with a loud voice and blustering personality. Mr. Court dressed in plus fours, was a cricket player and polo enthusiast. He also belonged to the curling club, was Anglican, Conservative and chairman of the High School Board.

The Courts had no children. When Mr. Court died, in 1914, Mrs. Court sold the house to James Hervey Francis, for whom the town of Francis is named. Born in 1859, in Ontario, Mr. Francis once assisted Alexander Graham Bell in demonstrating the telephone. After moving west, Francis owned large tracts of land in this and other districts, including two sections of the former Bell Farm. His first wife died. His second wife, Jean, was the daughter of Senator Bryson. She was a dedicated philanthropist. Their son, Jonathon Arthur Francis, owned the house until 1962, when it was purchased by Ernie and Marg Dragan. It is still their residence today.

The house sits on the largest lot in town; one block long and half a block wide, and the maple leaf fence is as old as the house itself. Although the carriage house was built at the same time as the house, the tin garage was built in 1919. The interior of the house has retained its old Victorian décor, with parlour and living room little changed since the turn of the century. Other features include the original wood banister, five bedrooms, a large attic, servants' staircase off the kitchen and a third exterior door on the side, leading to the balcony. LK

20. 1008 Grand Avenue: Scorned Love Begets Family Home



This elegant, two-storey red-brick home was inspired by love. In 1904, an English gentleman conceived the house's many charms with his fiancée in mind. These charms included dormers, ornate white verandah, hardwood floors throughout, sliding doors between den and dining-room, and stained glass windows. Alas, the lady in question inspected the house, pronounced it "monstrous" and returned to England.

Watchmaker Harold P. Gardner, who bought from the luckless groom, became Indian Head's first jeweller, in 1897. The Gardners' three children took great delight in the house's under-stair cubby-hole and the sighs and hisses of the heating system.

Austin Dewar, MLA, was the next owner. His wife, Mildred, was a music teacher and blessed the house with both music students and Dewar offspring. The family added a basement office before selling to Ted and Joan Singbeil in 1979. The Singbeils made the master bedroom a suite, detached the garage and built a deck. In 1984, they sold to Kelsey and Marian Calder, who operate the KOA campground.

Fifty-foot evergreens now tower over a yard once known for vegetable and flower gardens. The Calders have removed deteriorating verandah and porch, added a sunroom, renovated the attic and modernized the kitchen, but the rest of the house is much as it was when built for the woman who would have none of it. DT

21. 813 Grand Avenue: Custodian of Many Family Stories



John Stewart began building this splendid brick house with its elegant chamfered corner detail in 1900, the year he came west with his wife and daughter. The family grew to have four more children and Stewart provided for them by contracting to build more beautiful brick homes in the town.

Thomas Livingstone, the next owner, and his wife, Louisa, had homesteaded south of Indian Head on the site of a former Hudson's Bay Company trading post. After Thomas fought in the Riel uprising, they moved north of town, where their brick house still stands. Louisa died in 1892, leaving seven children. In December of 1893, Thomas married Minnie Patterson, and they had six children. After a series of crop failures, the family moved into town and leased this house.

Thomas developed asthma, so they moved to B.C. for his health, but in less than two years the prairies had lured them back. In 1913, Thomas purchased the Stewart house. Though Thomas himself died in 1921, other members of the Livingstone family owned the house until 1943, when it was purchased by Frank Joseph Rogers, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel.

William Henry Wright, Leslie and Jean Jupp, John and Eleanor Ciortan and Kari and Melody Koivisto were subsequent owners. They all had stories, of farming and entrepreneurial adventures, of community and war service. Leslie Jupp had been a prisoner of war, which explained "his expertise at table tennis" according to the Indian Head history book.

In 2006, Amin and Janice Bardestani, with sons Joseph and Samuel, bought this lovely home and moved to Indian Head from Edmonton. They are dedicated to restoring the house to its original splendour. AK + LK

22. 800 Bell: A Starring Role



In 1882, William Robert Boyd and his wife Mary Ann Fair travelled with their daughters Ida and Esther by ox cart from Rivers, Manitoba, to Indian Head. They established a tent hotel known as “Queen’s Hotel,” at the south end of Grand Avenue, then built the Commercial Hotel and operated it until 1892. In 1900, they built this house.

The Boyds’ eldest daughter, Ida, married H. P. Gardner. The Gardner’s eldest daughter, Muriel, was the mother of well-known Canadian actor Eric Peterson. The Boyds had three more children, Blanche (King), Cecil and Viola (who married Dr. Scott).

Boyd was an ardent curler and it was said that he could be heard the length of Main Street urging his team to “SWEEP!!”

Mr. and Mrs. Beaudreau owned this house next. Their daughter, Lois, married George Ferguson. Mr. Beaudreau ran a hardware store at 523 Grand Avenue. The Beaudreaus took in boarders. Vic and Margot Beaulieu lived in the suite upstairs when their son Rhys was born. He had colic and they had to walk with him so he wouldn’t cry and disturb the Beaudreaus downstairs. Two visitors to the house during the Beaudreaus’ time were Dixon Jewitt and Eva Kasperski. They met here and later married. Their son Don Jewitt would eventually marry the daughter of the house’s subsequent owners, Ena and Carl Bitschy.

The home is now the residence of Bill and Valentina May and children Abbeygail and Zachariah. LK

23. 507 Eden: Bed and Breakfast is Historic Landmark



In 1897, at the age of 41, James Conn built this home. He and his wife, Margaret Dixon, had come west to Winnipeg from Perth County, Ontario, in 1882, following Margaret's parents, William and Euphemy, who had homesteaded in the Wide Awake district. Euphemy, or "Grandmother Dixon", was also a midwife. The Conns farmed for one very dry year, then moved into Indian Head, where James served building and construction apprenticeships under Edwin J. Brooks. In 1889, James Conn started his own lumber business on the northeast corner of Grand Avenue and Otterloo. Later, Conn moved the James Conn Lumber Yard to the southeast corner of Grand Avenue and Eden and built this stately brick home on the northwest corner of the same intersection. Even before telephones, Conn had communication wires running above Grand Avenue from his house to his lumber yard.

The house was home to other families. The John McKay family rented it from 1931 until 1944. During this time, it was divided into apartments. Carl Pearen also made structural changes to the interior as well as the exterior of the building, closing the front door and removing a grand oak staircase. However, many Victorian embellishments remain, as do many noteworthy exterior features: wide eaves with brackets, the oculus in the front attic gable, the lovely cresting that crowns the roof and the belvedere.

Many visitors now enjoy Bonnie Warnyca's Eden House Bed and Breakfast. LK

Oculus – circular window

Cresting – a ridge along the top of a roof

Belvedere – raised turret atop a house designed to give a good view



18
BELL BARN

HISTORICAL
Indiana
SA

16

18

15

19

HAMILTON AVENUE

20

12 14

13

CRAWFORD STREET

11

10

9

VICTORIA AVENUE

21

BELL ST.

HIGHWAY #56

8

24

23

26

25

27

30

7

28

6

29

5

40

4

41

ROUTLEDGE ST

2

3

42

43

44

EDEN STREET
GRAND AVENUE
BOYLE STREET
BUXTON STREET

NORTH RAILWAY
CANADIAN PACIFIC

ELIZABETH AVE

1

SOUTH RAILWAY AV

INDUS

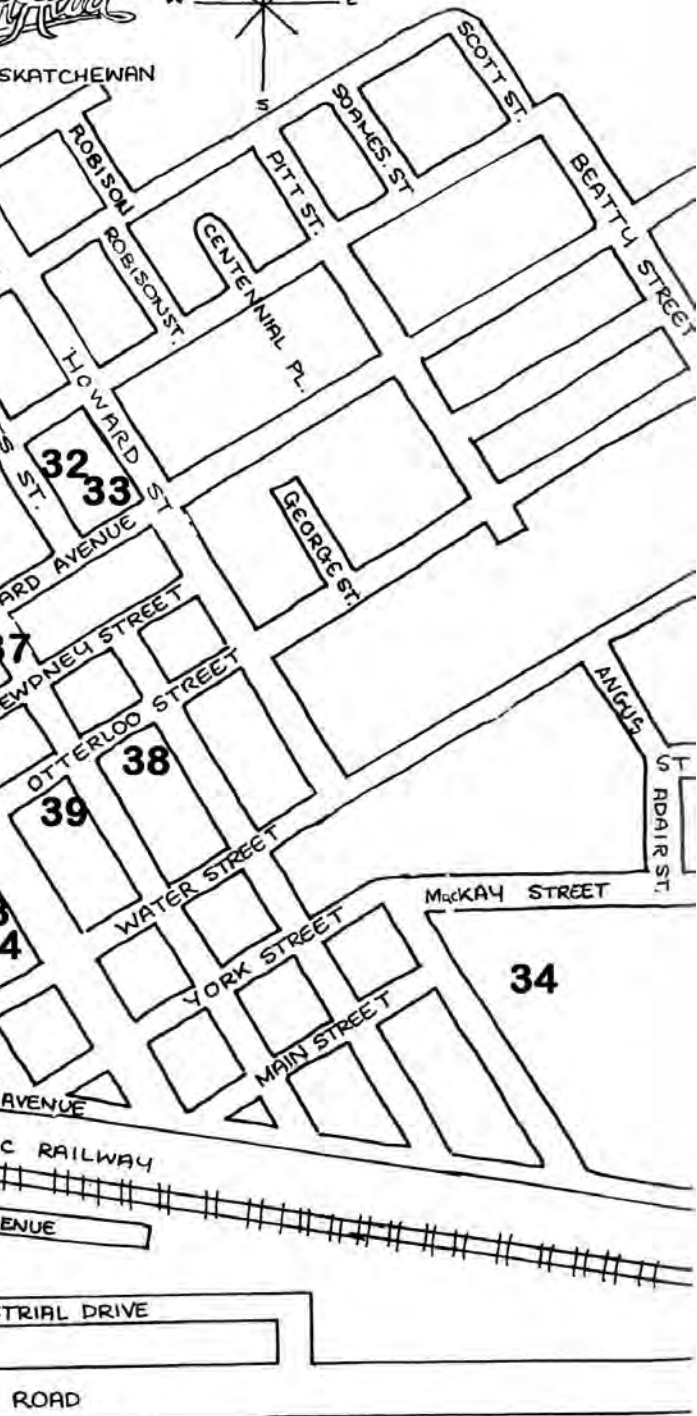
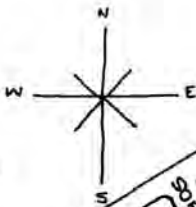
SERVICE



TOURIST BOOTH

ERIC
Head

SKATCHEWAN



24. 801 Buxton Street: Church an Artistic and Spiritual Feast



St. Andrew's United Church was designed by William Marshall Dodd, a Canadian architect who designed major buildings in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan in the early twentieth century. In 1907, St. Andrew's was built as a Presbyterian Church, but after the union of Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches in Canada in 1925, it became a United Church, which it remains today.

St. Andrew's United Church is built in the Collegiate Gothic style. Its red-brick exterior is not common on the prairies. The placement of the front door on the corner of the church is unusual and contributes to the majesty of the structure. Take note of the cupola on the roof. This is indicative of churches built in the same era as St. Andrew's.

No one who has attended a service or concert at St. Andrew's could have missed the D. W. Kam two-manual pipe organ, installed in the 1920s. Such a pipe organ is, indeed, a rare find in a small town on the Prairies! Because of the wonderful acoustics of the sanctuary, St. Andrew's hosts carol festivals and other concerts.

The sanctuary also boasts some fine stained glass windows. The placement of the Robert Crawford memorial window at the front of the sanctuary to the west of the pulpit makes it visible to all who worship there.

As one approaches Indian Head from the west on the Trans-Canada highway, the spire of St. Andrew's stands out like a sentinel amidst the town's many trees, welcoming everyone home. CR

Cupola – dome-like structure on top of a building

Two-manual – two hand keyboards

25. 717 Buxton: Fish Symbol Remains



The official union of Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches in 1925 was, for the Presbyterians of Indian Head, a divisive issue. The vote was close: 70 in favour of union, 68 against. The Reverend Thomas MacAfee persuaded the minority to remain Presbyterian. However, they needed a building.

On August 21, 1930, the cornerstone of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was laid by 90-year-old Dr. Angus MacKay, original superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm. As he took the silver trowel to tap the cornerstone, Reverend MacAfee stepped in to help the old man. "I don't need any assistance from you, you scaly-wag." said Dr. MacKay in a very loud voice.

Since both churches opted to keep the name of the original parish, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's United Church existed for 74 years within half a block of each other. Eventually, the Presbyterian congregation dwindled and decided to close the church.

The building began a new life in 2003, when Jamie and Derek Olson, seeing the "for sale" sign, decided to put in an offer. In the fall, the work began: cutting trees, burying power cables, and insulating. They re-plumbed, rewired, and re-stuccoed and installed a wrap-around deck at the back. A new staircase leads from the basement right up to the loft, and a cast iron and stone fireplace rises from the floor to the twenty-foot ceiling of the great room. After six years of work, the Olsons moved in. The copper fish weather vane, a gift from Jamie to Derek, found its perfect and permanent home. LK

26. 708 Buxton: The Town's First Hospital



The brick building at 708 Buxton was built at the initiative of 25-year-old Anna Maud Crawford. Maud and her sister Mary had come to Indian Head to live with their uncle Robert Crawford after the death of their mother in Ottawa. Maud Crawford decided to build an institution to provide care for new mothers, and the Crawford Maternity Hospital became Indian Head's first hospital.

An article in the *Vidette* of May 13, 1895 reads, "A new hospital is the project now uppermost. Lord Brassey, when here last summer, promised to build a hospital. The names connected with the building of the hospital are those of Miss Maud Crawford and J. W. Kemp M.D. In connection with the foregoing, it may be stated that Miss Crawford has just gone east to Kingston, Ontario to take a course of training as hospital nurse to fit her for filling an important position in the hospital when completed."

William Dale was given the contract to build the hospital. The Crawford Maternity Hospital operated for only a year and a half, when it was sold to Ed Sample, who became the town constable in 1902. In 1904, the building became the Methodist Church Manse and, after church union in 1925, the United Church Manse, serving as such until 1980. A total of 17 ministers and their families lived here over a 75-year period. In 1980, it passed to private owners, John and Kathy Wadsworth, and then, in 1997, to John and Linda Kort. LK

27. 702 Buxton Street: New Life for St. John the Divine



The original St. John's Anglican Church was built south of the CPR tracks, but the town expanded north of the tracks. In July of 1912, this two-towered building, Grisdale Hall, opened to serve as both parish hall and church. Old St John's Church south of the tracks was demolished.

The eight tubular bells, which Lord Brassey had donated to the previous church in 1899, were remounted in the north tower. When Governor General Lord Willingdon and his wife, Lord Brassey's daughter, visited Indian Head in 1927, Lady Willingdon tolled the bells her father had donated 28 years earlier.

By 1944, the congregation was out of debt, but had insufficient funds to build the long-awaited church. Therefore, on October 28, 1945, Archdeacon William Jackson officiated at the opening of the white, wood-sided Grisdale Hall as a bona fide church, St. John the Divine.

In 1958, the basement was renovated to provide a hall and kitchen for parish functions and Sunday school classes. In 1987, the interior was lined with wood paneling, and, in 1996, the church was enclosed in white vinyl siding.

As the congregation decreased, it could not sustain the church. In September 2007, the new bishop of Qu'Appelle Diocese, the Right Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson, and the church's final rector, the Rev. Cheryl Johnson, held a service of deconsecration. In 2008, Rod and Natalie Vance and family purchased the property. They plan, with the help of an architect, to renovate St. John's as their home. During the summers of 2009 and 2010, the building was used as production office for the crew filming *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. DT

28. 410 Woodward: Indian Head's "Legacy of Stone"



Built in 1886, this was the home of Colonel Joseph Glenn. Stones for the house were gathered from land south of Indian Head. It is the only stone house in town and has a distinctive Mansard roof. Stone mason John Hunter and architect A. M. Fraser built this home.

Joseph Glenn came to Indian Head in 1882, when he was 22 years old. In 1883, he established a feed and livery stable in Indian Head and imported workhorses from Ontario. He also drove men out in the country to file on homesteads. In 1885, when the Riel uprising broke out, he served as a dispatch rider and also as a driver for Ontario newspaper reporters covering news of the fighting. In 1886, he returned to Owen Sound and married Christina Gordon, whom he brought back to Indian Head. A few years later, he was present at the capture of Almighty Voice. For several years, he delivered mail to Blackwood, Kenlis, Lorie and Chickney. In 1901, the west addition was added to the house. From 1906 to 1920, Glenn built and operated grain elevators in Indian Head, Odessa, Grand Coulee and Milestone. In 1912, he was elected to the Provincial Legislature, where he sat with the Conservatives for two terms.

The Glens had seven children, and the stone house remained in the family for more than 96 years. The address of the home was previously 610 Buxton Street but later changed to 410 Woodward Avenue. LK

29. 611 Buxton: Doc Davies' Childhood Home



Built in 1897, this house has a stone foundation and double brick walls of Peltier brick from Katepwa. The original insulation consisted of horse hair and peat. Exterior changes to the building include the wrap-around verandah, back addition and garage. The interior retains many original features: lath and plaster walls, oak floors, the fireplace mantel, grand front door, curved walls at the top of the stairs, and five matching stained glass windows. In the windows, there is a recurring motif that may be a family crest.

Mayor George S. Davidson and his wife Isabella lived in the house from 1904 to 1930.

From 1951 to 1969, the owner was Alan Davies, who ran a pharmacy on Grand Avenue from 1918 to 1947 and was the father of legendary doctor A.J.M. (Mac) Davies. Alan's first wife, Sarah Reid McLane, was born in 1884 at Troy (now Qu'Appelle); she was said to be the first white child born there.

From 1951 to 1969, this was the home of Phil Flude and his wife, Clarice. At the age of 16, Flude joined the staff of the *Indian Head News* and later was the owner of "The News" for 22 years.

The next owner was town administrator Jack Hall and his wife, Velma. The Halls lived here for 26 years. When Hall died in 1995, Murray and Theresa O'Hara, the next owners, did extensive renovations to the house's interior. Jim and Karen Kelly sold to present owners, Virginia and Darren Horsman. TG

30. 501 Woodward: Colour Me Blue



In 1996, this lovely duplex was featured in a movie, a family drama called *Lyddie*, based on the book by Katherine Paterson.

In 1903, the lot's title was in the name of Jane Fraser, wife of the architect, A. M. Fraser. The Frasers operated the "Sash and Door" company. They also built and lived in a succession of family homes during the dozen years that they lived in Indian Head before moving to Regina in 1909. The Motherwell Homestead at Abernethy was also designed by Fraser.

In 1908, H. P. Gardner and Eli Williamson bought the house, followed, in 1919, by William J. Teasel, farmer, and Alan L. Davies, druggist. In 1931, Loretta Ann Osment, widow of A. J. Osment, bought the west half of the duplex and it remained in the Osment family until 1944, when it was bought by Marjorie Milroy, and leased to her sister Lela Wands. Meanwhile, in 1935, Charles Albert Edwards bought the east half. Edwards worked for 40 years at the Dominion Forest Nursery Station, retiring as Assistant Superintendent. After his death, his wife Hilda continued to live there until her death in 1987.

When both sides came under the same title, the staircase became six feet wide. The house was later owned by Darrell and Patricia Hitchens, followed by John and Carol Welden, Allan and Else Hearn, Murray and Christy Sanders, Connie Grasdal and Ruben Flores, and present owner Denise Panasiuk. LK

31. 507 Woodward: Families Leave Their Mark



Local builder John Stewart originally built this house to serve as the rectory for the Anglican Church of St. John the Divine. An interesting feature is its corbelled chimney.

An article appeared in Indian Head's newspaper, the *Vidette*, on February 14, 1906, which read, "A house warming was held at the rectory with a great number of guests who all thoroughly appreciated the kindness and hospitality of Rev. G. N. Dobie and Mrs. Dobie. It has been decided by the woman's Auxiliary of the parish to install, at their expense, the electric light, which is so soon to be in working order in the town and this will add the finishing touch to this most comfortable dwelling."

When the house ceased to be a rectory, Mr. Dick Taylor (see his initials on the front sidewalk) and his wife lived here with their eleven children, all of whom were brought into the world by Dr. Kemp. The Taylors operated two general stores and were steadfast supporters of the Anglican Church.

After being the Taylors' residence, the building served as headquarters for the RCMP detachment from 1947 to 1962. Constable Butts and his wife lived and worked here and Mrs. Gertie Scott remembers working for Mrs. Butts.

Herb Myers, an Indian Head businessman, was the next owner. He and Tommy Guild owned the Ripley Garage, which was situated across Woodward, north of the opera house.

Kim and Penny Huntley bought the house from Herb Myers and raised their family in it. The house at 507 Woodward is now the home of Don Golding and family. LK
Corbelled chimney – where rows of brick gradually build out from the vertical to carry the weight

32. 711 Eberts: Its Changing Faces



This house was built in 1914, one of two cottage schools located on the park-like school grounds south of the elementary school. Old timers remember that these schools were not equipped with self-contained toilet facilities and it was quite a trek to the main school to use the toilet. This cottage school remained in use until the early 1930s, when, due to declining school enrolment, it was no longer needed.

In 1947, it became the Roman Catholic rectory and, for the convenience of clergy and people, was moved next to St. Joseph Catholic Church, located, at the time, on the corner of Eberts and Eden. On Saturday, December 6th, 1947, the parish's first priest, Father Missere, moved into the rectory. Another priest who lived there and was well-known and well-liked was Father McMann.

Joyce and Bill McCall made no major structural changes when they bought the rectory in 1959. A boiler heating system joined the rectory and the church and was still in working order when the church was torn down in 1963. In fact, the McCalls often recalled the loud boom whenever the boiler cut in to heat the church on Sunday mornings. It used to scare their children, who played in the basement. A porch was added on the north side of the house, and in 1970, a garage was built. The present owner is Stacey Horsman. BAW

33. 807 Woodward: Great Expectations



This home was constructed in 1898. Juliette Anne Marie Lanternier (Oudot) ran this midwife home for several years around 1918. In that year, Charlie Oudot, Reg Scott and Frank Karwandy, among others, were born here.

Later, Thomas Petty, principal of the public school, and his wife, Grace, lived here. The story goes that she slept in the little room over the front porch while she was recovering from tuberculosis. Eventually, the Pettys turned the upstairs into an apartment for their son, Jack.

In 1955, Spence and Shirley Walker started their married life in the upstairs suite at the Thomas Petty residence. Their son, Dan, was born here. In his retirement, Thomas Petty researched local history, searching the countryside to find the site of the old Hudson's Bay Company post that had existed south of Indian Head and mapping the trails that were used by early traders. His book *Echoes of the Qu'Appelle Lakes District* can be found in the local library and museum.

Robert and Mary Louise Longeau moved into the house in 1971. The Longeaus had settled in the Lake Marguerite district in 1925. Originally from France, Longeau, along with his siblings, parents and grandparents, first homesteaded in this region in 1894. Robert and Mary Louise were well known for their tremendous hospitality.

When present owner, Garnet Williamson, started renovating the upstairs, the bedroom doors still had transoms above them. The home has been extensively renovated. BAW+AB

Transom – the window over the beam above a door

34. 110 Howard Street: The Orange Home



At a meeting in Moose Jaw in 1919, the Right Worshipful Grand Orange Lodges of Saskatchewan were offered a 26-acre site on the eastern boundary of Indian Head to establish a Protestant orphanage. On July 12, that same year, the Indian Head Orange Lodge received \$1334.98 in donations to start developing the “Orange Home” to care for dependent children. Architects Storey and Van Egmond designed the buildings.

The cornerstone for Pavilion #1 (later the girl’s dormitory), complete with time capsule, was laid on September 3, 1923, near McKay Street. The first children to come to the home were a family of six from Prince Albert. Pavilion #2 for the boys opened in November of 1924 and included the dining room. The home could now house 72 children. In 1930, a laundry was built in Pavilion #1 and, in Pavilion #2, a root cellar needed to store garden produce. In 1949, an underground tunnel was built to connect the pavilions.

Pavilion #1 was closed in 1981 and leased as a day care. In 1999, the girl’s dormitory was demolished to make room for Hayes Haven, which opened in 2000, with Aline Railton as first resident. It was exciting to open the time capsule of 1923. At that time, the tunnel that had led to the gymnasium was filled in.

A second (north) wing for Hayes Haven was completed the following year (2001), allowing for a total of 21 units.

The Orange Home’s service to youngsters came to an end in June 2006. When Ben Friesen bought property that included the boy’s dorm that same year, he had the remainder of the tunnel sealed up.

An auction including chattels and furniture from the former Orange Home was held in 2007. DT

35. 631 Grand: The Indian Head Opera House



Arthur James Osment came west from Ontario to construct the buildings for Bell Farm. He also built the Opera House Block, on the southeast corner of Grand and Woodward, in 1904, using local brick with all walls four bricks thick. The buff-coloured bricks were hauled from Lake Katepwa in the Qu'Appelle Valley by horse and wagon for the opera house and the three stores to the south. At the time, it was the only opera house between Winnipeg and Vancouver and was used for plays, music productions, Chautauqua and splendid balls. Arthur's son Walter painted scenery sets, and these fragile rolls can still be found in the basement.

In 1938, as the opera era closed, the building was sold to Mr. Baldwin and used for silent pictures. He built a projection room and installed new talkie equipment.

Owners have included Ted Williams, the Hatton family, Gordon Wilson, and Harold (Sparky) Clark. Clark replaced the seats, reducing the seating from 300 to present day 240. He painted the ceiling, upgraded the concession, installed a newer projector and repaired the motor to the power drapes. Clark relied on Ernie (projectionist) and Lorraine Brooks (tickets and concession) who worked every evening except Wednesday from 1957 to 1972, including Christmas Eve. Greg and Helen Stewart, new owners in 1993, replaced the lobby carpet, installed a new heating system and painted the tin-tiled ceiling. They still maintain the two reel-to-reel projectors, but in 2011, purchased a more modern lamp house platter system. The Stewarts are most diligent in preserving the "Wall of Fame", which includes signatures of performers, with the earliest dated 1914. DT

36. 609 and 613 Grand Ave: The Leach Legacy



Arthur Leach came to Indian Head at age 14 in 1886, becoming a mail driver the same year. He also built these beautiful brick buildings, although not in the same year. The buff brick building at 609 Grand was built in 1897, as the home for his family. The upper storey features two cathedral windows with arched brick work. The lower floor once had three street openings. The left and right windows once served as doors. Also note the original eave decoration. A south portico is framed by four, well-preserved, square, white columns. In 1906, 609 Grand opened as a law office for H. G. W. Wilson. Lawyer Lloyd Avram purchased the building then sold it to Sandy Rennebohm.

In 1906, when he became Indian Head's third postmaster, Leach built the red brick building at 613 Grand and leased it to the Government as the post office. It was closed as a post office in 1961, when the present post office, at 606 Dewdney, opened. A granddaughter of Arthur Leach, Connie Willerth, and son Bobby lived in the four-room living quarters upstairs. To this day, the post office building still retains the original tin-tiled ceiling.

Rennebohm sold both buildings to Jane Hogan who opened her Agora Gallery here.

In 2007, Georges Hatem, his wife, Hind Rami, and their three children moved into the top floor of the post office building. Georges updated the main floor with child-sized toilets and sinks as well as a kitchen. Hind now uses both buildings for the Little Castle Child Care, which is licensed to accommodate up to 40 children. LK

37. 612 Bell: Grandma Leach's House



In 1902 Arthur Leach also built this three-bedroom, two-storey frame home with gingerbread trim. The large front veranda is no longer in place. The two-lot property had a large garage, a wood shed and a barn for the family's chickens, horses and cow. The barn still stands and at one time had a hot house attached for an early start to their large garden.

Leach held the position of postmaster from 1906 until his death in 1949, swearing his allegiance to five sovereigns, from Queen Victoria to George VI. Leach, mayor of Indian Head in 1919, wife Edith and son Wilfred lived here. After marriage, Wilfred and his wife Lilian raised their family in the small upper-storey living quarters (with no bathroom) at 613 Grand. Their six children ran across Grandma's lot to school. Wilfred and Lilian moved to the house on Bell in the early 1950s. Sadly, Wilfred died in 1955, but Lilian continued to live at this address. Her grandson Bobby continued the family tradition and raced across Grandma Leach's yard from 613 Grand to the school in two minutes flat. On Lilian's death in 1997, the house had been a Leach home for 94 years.

Ryan and Jennifer Rennebohm purchased it in 1998 and did extensive renovations, including building a beautiful brick fireplace and stripping the many wallpaper layers in favour of paint. When one of the three coloured window panes started leaking, it had to be replaced with a clear pane. The property was sold to Richard Hewson in 2008. It now stands vacant, waiting for a new family. BAW + DT

38. 708 Otterloo: Southeast Regional College



The Indian Head Museum displays a card with the following inscription: “The Officers of the Indian Head Troop ‘C’ Squadron 16th Light Horse request the pleasure of the company of yourself and friends on the occasion of the Formal Opening of the Indian Head Armoury by Colonel Steele at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18th, 1914. A Military Ball will be held in the evening.” Sam Steele was then 65 years old.

The Indian Head Armoury was built to Standard Armoury Plan Type A, designed by the Engineer Service Branch, Dept. of Militia and Defence. The building measures 42 feet by 92 feet, the size built for one-company units. It had a shooting range in the basement.

The Indian Head Armoury is identical to at least three others erected elsewhere in Canada, including Moosomin, Saskatchewan (1913); Orno, Ontario (1914); and Enderby, British Columbia (1914). These armouries were less ornate than those previously designed by the Dept. of Public Works.

N. Leslie Sterritt has this recollection: “I joined the local militia in 1935 as a ‘recruit’ stretching my age to 16 . . . We trained Tuesday and Thursday evening. However, the armoury provided a good basketball court, small gymnasium, parallel bars and boxing under the tutelage of Gaston Eichel. In 1937-38 we had mixed badminton, followed by lunches, always chaperoned by RSM Charlie Brooks or other senior members of the unit.”

The armoury was used as the office of the Indian Head School Division and, since 2002, for the Southeast Regional College, its present use. TG + LK

39. 610 Otterloo: Indian Head Museum



Officially opened in June of 1980, the operation of the museum is overseen by a volunteer board, with assistance from members, residents and the Town of Indian Head. The museum is open during the summer months. It has three main buildings.

The Fire Hall

This building was built as a fire hall in 1907. At that time, the Indian Head water supply came from Squirrel Hills, through wooden water lines, built in 1906. The first fire chief was Dan McKenzie. The fire brigade consisted of volunteers, some actually living on the second floor.

The fire wagon was pulled by horses, which did double duty as town work horses. Hec Blair wrote the following: “It mattered not where they were working, if the fire bell rang they would be off to the fire hall and someone would pull the harness off them because the harness for the fire wagon was hung on hooks and when the doors were sprung open from the stable, no one wanted to be in the way or they would get walked over. The horses would back under the harness and someone would snap the collars shut and attach the lines and by this time the men would be on the wagon and the driver would pull the rope and the doors would spring open and the team would be on the dead run in about three strides.”

Since the fire hall was one of the most secure buildings in town, the basement also held two jail cells, used until the 1960s. The building functioned as a fire hall until 1977. TG + DT + LK

Jubilee School (Rural School #1122)



On the grounds of the Indian Head Museum, Jubilee School serves as an example of the 12 rural schools in the Indian Head district. Its story began over 100 years ago.

On February 13, 1904, a committee asked the North West Territories Dept. of Education for permission to establish a school district. A. M. Fraser charged \$20 to draw the plans, B. F. Holden donated the land, and W. K. Kerr built the school for \$210 with 20,000 bricks from Clem Peltier's brick plant at Katepwa. The 24-foot by 34-foot school building was completed in January, 1905. As the Holden farm was called Jubilee Farm, after Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, the school also carried the name.

The first teacher in the original school, Miss Margaret McMorris, boarded with a nearby family and had 11 students from three families—the minimum enrollment was ten in order to qualify for a school grant of \$1 a day or \$200 a year. One of the students, A. R. Hamilton, earned \$25 a year as school caretaker.

The brick building eventually deteriorated and was replaced in 1926 by a sound wooden school, built by Thomas Ramsay. At the time, there were also two outhouses, a stable and a shed for wood and coal. Miss Elizabeth Ramsay, daughter of Thomas Ramsay, taught at the new school from 1939 to 1941, for a salary of \$550 a year. She too had 11 students, including those taking high school by correspondence. When attendance dropped, Jubilee School closed in 1955 and in December 1963 the school district ceased to exist.

Franklin Holden and his wife, Eleanor, donated the Jubilee schoolhouse to the Indian Head Museum in 1980. DT + TG

Bell Cottage



The cottage now on the grounds of the museum was built in 1883. It is one of the few remaining of 26 cottages built to house workers and their families at Bell Farm. During the heyday of the farm, there were 85 hired men, many housed in these cottages. The cottages were connected to the main office by a telephone system, allowing Major Bell to communicate with his foremen each evening, who would in turn give sub-foremen their instructions for the following day.

Though Bell Farm had been a going concern for over a decade, a number of events led to its decline. Finally, in February of 1896, the farm's investors filed a statement of claim against Major Bell, and the land and chattels were eventually sold by auction.

George (always known as "Pat") Gibson and his wife, Irene, had worked for Jack (Jigger) Wilson (son of A. E. Wilson) on Cumberland Farm. They rented the east farm from the A. E. Wilson estate and lived in the cottage from 1951 until 1974, when they moved to town.

The final family to live in this particular Bell Cottage was that of Bill and Fran Williamson, from 1975 to 1978. The family soon outgrew this five-room home and built a new house only a short distance south of it.

The family's Uncle Sam Williamson, recognizing the building's historic value, insisted they donate the cottage to the museum. This was a good solution for everyone, since it saved the work of demolition, and the cottage was moved in 1979 to its present site at the museum. It is one of the oldest buildings in town. TG + DT

40. 514 Grand Avenue: From Furnishings to Flowers



George Thompson came in early 1882, broke land, and “squatted,” waiting for a land titles office to open, so he could apply for a homestead. Then he was told his land belonged to the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company; he would have to move. Thompson was not alone in this predicament. All the squatters called a meeting, signed legal complaints and appointed Thompson to take their petitions to Ottawa to plead their case. Thompson did go to Ottawa, but he alone was granted a homestead. In 1902, Thompson became Indian Head’s first mayor, and, in 1904, built this block of four buildings.

The buildings of the Thompson Block have been bought and sold a number of times. The upper floors have been used as apartments, and the main floors have been home to an array of businesses. The original owner of this building was merchant G. S. Davidson. In 1910, John Tuffnell bought the building and sold men’s furnishings. Tuffnell sold in 1926 to Alex Calder Badenoch, whose son, Bill Badenoch, bought it in 1954. Badenoch, the son, continued operating the Men’s and Boys’ Store until 1979, when he sold to Peter and Frankie Law, who continued to sell men’s clothing until 1999.

It then became Toni’s dress shop and later a gift shop and art gallery operated by Marilyn Malo. When the Pike family owned Stedman’s, next door, they sold craft supplies and lottery tickets here.

On November 1, 2004, Sherry Karpa opened Indian Head Flower and Gift Boutique. LK

41. 500 Grand: A Storied Landmark



Inside this dignified exterior is a hive of activity, as the current owners maintain a film rescue business on the main floor and live upstairs. The McIntosh Hotel occupied this site from the 1880s until destroyed by fire in the 1890s. The Union Bank of Canada bought the property and built the current building in 1898, amalgamating with the Royal Bank in 1925. In the 1960s, the branch relocated across Grand Avenue, selling the original building to the Rural Municipality #156 of Indian Head, who owned it until the 1980s. It then became the head office for Pipestone Home Care until Grenfell Hospital was closed and renovated about 1994.

The next owners, Chieftain Construction, removed the original wooden front doors and some oak fixtures, sealed over first floor transom windows, installed a metal roof over the original flat roof, replaced the boiler and put in air conditioning. Two bank vaults remain, one on the main floor and one in the basement.

The building has the stone foundation typical of the time, while the Tyndall stone for the exterior was quarried in Manitoba—note the fossils.

A former bank employee recalls an attempted robbery. Apparently, the would-be thieves had a change of heart and left empty-handed. They were apprehended by the R.C.M.P. soon after.

Mavis Jealous was once employed as a teller and recalls that she had to take a gun from the vault and put it inside the drawer at the counter each day. There was a practice shooting range in the basement; however, she was not comfortable handling the gun and did not use the practice range. Fortunately, the need to use the gun never arose. TG

42. 436 Grand Avenue: Changing to Suit the Times



From its original farm supply store to the present Fit Stop Gym, managed by Orland Thompson, 436 Grand, built in 1895, has changed to fit the times. Joseph (Jos) Glenn, the first owner, also had a feed and livery stable. In the store, he sold essentials such as livestock feed and twine. A memoir by Hector (Hec) Blair recalls businesses run by John Blair and George Elliot on the main floor, while Glenn's offices were upstairs.

In the 1930s, the main floor was the Indian Head Town Office, with Royal Canadian Legion meeting rooms upstairs. Still later, the building housed the Salvation Army. When the Salvation Army built a new Citadel a few blocks away, it sold 436 Grand to Lee McKay, who ran Can-Star Sports, supplier of sporting equipment. Other businesses operating here over the years have been McDermid's small engine repair shop and "Theo's," Joan and Ted Singbeil's dress shop. For several summers, the storefront has been transformed again, becoming the Mercy radio station for *Little Mosque on the Prairie*.

Besides the large workout gym in the front, the present incarnation has provided backroom space for activities as diverse as theatre rehearsals and yoga classes. Upstairs is a roomy family home. While the interior has been modernized, the exterior retains its heritage appeal, with wooden trim on the storefront and along the roofline. AK

43. 428 Grand Avenue: Offering Your Favourite Flavour



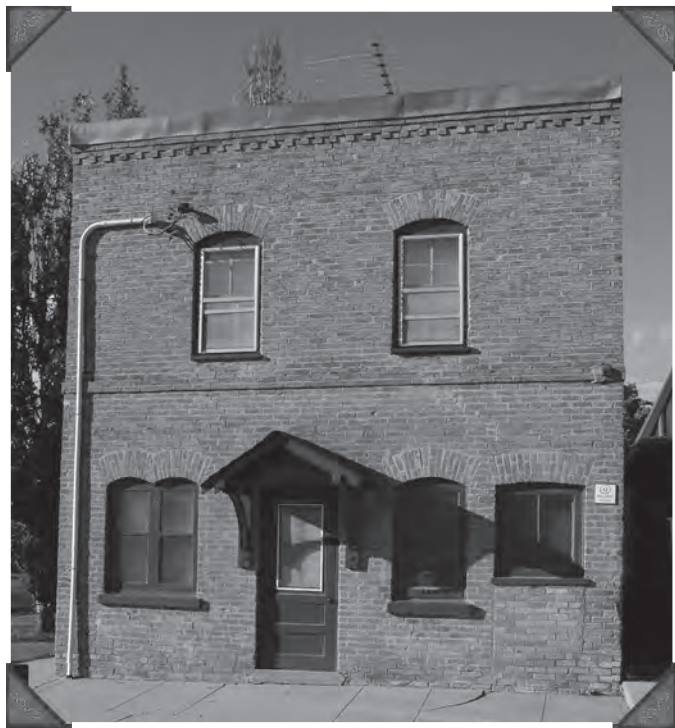
On the south side of the brick exterior, observant visitors to 428 Grand may discover lettering advertising McCaul's furniture store, the building's original occupant in 1895.

The building's role as the Vic Jones' Pool Hall and Barbershop is mentioned in Hec Blair's memoir. No doubt the lure of billiards in the back room was to give Jones the edge over other local barbers George Flude and Bill Lang. Until the 1920s, when the upper floors were remodeled as apartments, they provided lodge rooms for Oddfellows (IOOF) and Masons.

Eventually the building became Aubrey McDonald's coal office. Then, as cars became more popular, horses were replaced by tractors, and it became a dealership for Chrysler and for J. I. Case and Oliver Farm Machinery. The McDonald family lived in the apartment on the second floor. When son Harold (Bucko) married Beth (nee Nichols), the newlyweds lived in the west apartment. Meanwhile, daughter Vera, and her husband, Doug Robertson, lived on the third floor. Aubrey McDonald died in 1948, but Norma, his wife, kept the building until 1978, when she sold to Donald Liggett, who rented the main floor to the Community College. In about 1980, Larry Sentes turned the building back into a furniture store. It also housed L&J's Arcade, featuring video games and a pool table and run by Les and Jean Michalycka.

In 2009, Dan and Dana Beauregard (see 1100 Buxton) transformed the main floor and entrance yet again and introduced the old-fashioned pleasures of the Indian Head Ice Cream Parlour. Justine and Scott Hodge have recently bought the business, reopened in April, 2011 and restored the tradition of backroom pool hall. AK + DT

44. 418 Grand: A Cut Above Fish ‘N Chips



Originally a butcher shop belonging to Thomas E. Donnelly, early town councillor and mayor of Indian Head for the 1910 – 1911 term, 418 Grand was built in 1896. It later became a private residence, until it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John Hunter, who turned it into Hunter’s Tea Room.

According to the Indian Head history book, the Donnellys and the Hunters had more than a building in common. First there was farming—Thomas Donnelly (and son Thomas) first settled in what became the Sunny South School District, and Thomas senior is credited with naming the district. John Hunter also had a farm—west of town.

Hunter was also a builder. According to his biography in the history book, he “played an important part in building the town of Indian Head” (p. 465). Among his construction credits is St. Andrew’s United Church (1907). Donnelly was a builder in another sense, a strong supporter of agricultural enterprises such as the Qu’Appelle Valley Agricultural Society, formed in 1884.

Tea made way in time to more hearty fare, and a man known as “Dad” Harman turned the building into a fish and chips shop. Apparently the menu included more than just fish and chips. After all, the staff of the municipal office lunched there, and they were presumably “a cut above” fish ‘n chips.

More recently, the compact buff-coloured brick building was converted back to apartments. AK

Indian Head's Rich Heritage

The town site, the full section 24-18-13 W2 was, included in the original land acquired by the Bell Farm (Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company). This did not mean that the Bell Farm had patent or title. The company required some chattel for raising money, so it purchased the land outright from the Government for \$5,120 (\$8/acre).

The present site of Indian Head was chosen at the request of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company needing a convenient siding for the shipment of their grain. Had it not been for the Bell Farm's request, Indian Head would have been located four miles to the east. A road was built straight northwest from the Canadian Pacific Railway depot to the Bell Farm. As a result, the streets of Indian Head do not run north and south. With the arrival of the CPR in 1882, came the telegraph, the town's first communication with the outside world.

When the Bell Farm went into liquidation in 1886, the town site was sold to Canada North West Land Company. Four names appear on all the original titles of every lot in the town. These four were the trustees of the Canada North West Land Company: Richard B. Angus, of Montreal; Donald A. Smith, of Silver Heights (later Lord Strathcona); Edmund Boyd Osler, of Toronto; William Bain Scarth, of Winnipeg. This company sold the lots, charging immigrants ten times what they had paid. When the company went broke, the title fell to the Town Site Commission of the North West Territories, administered by Indian Head Rural Municipality until 1902, when it was incorporated as a town.

Early townspeople were ambitious for their community and Indian Head is credited with many firsts: water works, power plant, collegiate, health services, Experimental Farm, Forestry Station, and it was the birthplace of the Territorial Grain Growers Association.

As you tour Indian Head, you will notice that the oldest buildings were constructed of buff-coloured bricks. Many of these bricks were produced by a brick-making machine owned by Arthur James Osment and, later, sold to Clem Peltier, who set up at the foot of Katepwa Lake in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Many of these brick buildings stand as straight and strong as when they were built over one hundred years ago. With care, they will continue to stand for another hundred years. LK

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