

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED MARCH 30, 2023 AT  
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LACOMBE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LACOMBE  
MUSEUM

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Lacombe & District Historical Society acknowledges that we are living, working, and volunteering within hereditary indigenous land. We acknowledge the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, established in 1876, and is the traditional home, and meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples, including the Blackfoot, Dene, Cree, Métis, and Inuit People, whose footsteps have marked this land for centuries.

The Lacombe & District Historical Society is committed to doing its part to address the legacy of broken promises and rebuild productive partnerships and relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Central Alberta and across Canada.



# Lacombe Museum

Collect, Preserve, Interpret and Exhibit.

## OUR PRESIDENTS STATEMENT

In 2022, the Lacombe and District Historical Society emerged from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with notable success. Despite the impact felt over the previous two years, the Society made significant progress towards returning to normal operations.

One of the Society's most significant achievements this year was the acquisition and installation of new shelving at the Flatiron Building. Thanks to the remarkable grant-writing skills of Melissa and her team, the cost of the shelves was fully paid for. With the shelves now in place, a dedicated team of volunteers, led by the staff to successfully relocated over 8000 artefacts from the Michener House to the Flatiron Building before winter weather forced a temporary halt to the effort.

The Lacombe and District Historical Society was proud to be recognized as the recipient of the Non-Profit of the Year award in the 2022 Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce Lacombe Ford Awards, which was an incredible honour for the Society.

Looking back on the year, we should all be impressed by our accomplishments. We hosted a variety of successful fundraising events throughout the spring and summer, including the Heritage Fashion Show, High Tea at the Michener House Museum & Gardens, the Blacksmith Hammer In Festival, and the inaugural Servus Credit Union Harvest Dinner.

The Board, staff, and volunteers also took part in numerous training and engagement opportunities with our community partners. These included:

*Dementia Awareness with AHS*

*Cultural Sensitivity with ITA*

*Becoming Conscious Allies with LPAC*

*Unsettling Pioneer Museums with UofA*

The dedication of Melissa and her team in providing exceptional programming at all three museum sites is to be commended, as are the LDHS members for their unwavering commitment to attending meetings and volunteering their assistance at events.

We should all take pride in the achievements of the Lacombe and District Historical Society in 2022, and look forward to more of the same in the upcoming year!

**Debbie Gillard, President**







# EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS STATEMENT

The Lacombe Museum is proud to continue our commitment to providing exceptional services and collaborative partnerships in the region. Our work is carried out on behalf of the Lacombe & District Historical Society, its Board of Directors, and members.

Over the past year, we hosted a monthly Speaker Series featuring a wide variety of specialists from local, regional, national, and international locations. Our Flatiron Building Museum showcased new several exhibits, programs, workshops, events and opportunities for artisans and Indigenous makers in the giftshop. The Blacksmith Shop Museum completed the 8-year wait for restorations on the Trip Hammers, held workshops, programs and hosted the largest Hammer-In Festival to date with 12 Blacksmiths from all over Western Canada and over 500 visitors. The Michener House Museum had siding repairs completed, hosted events, programs, tours, created the accessible raised garden beds in the Heritage Garden and facilitated weekly walking tours.

In the Collections, the new compact shelving has made a massive difference, allowing the Collections Move Plan to go ahead. We also arranged a successful

transfer of Gilmour Family history records and items from the family in the USA.

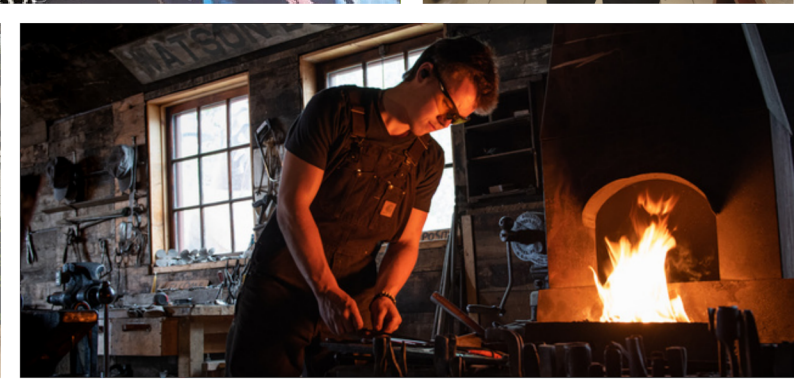
We worked with community partners like the City's Heritage Resource Committee to host in-person historic window repair workshops. We increased our offering of services including mentorship, professional development and training opportunities, assistance with artifact care and digitization, research, exhibit development, event planning, grant writing, project proposals, & advisory assistance with heritage conservation of built heritage buildings.

**Over 2022, our work in the community focused on four key-pillars:**  
***access; inclusion; reconciliation; and engagement beyond our physical spaces to make us a more welcoming and available organization to all within our community.***

To the Lacombe & District Historical Society, our volunteers, staff, members, and community, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for your continued support and efforts to keep Lacombe's history alive and flourishing. With your help, I look forward to progressing the mission over the next year.

**Melissa Blunden, Executive Director**









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# 2022 ANNUAL STATISTICS

Lacombe  
Museum

**2,436**

**Blacksmith Shop Museum  
Visitors\***

**1,675**

**Michener House Museum  
Visitors\***

**2,530**

**Flatiron Building Museum  
Visitors\*\***

**3,785**

**Off Site Visitors\*\*\***

**7**

**Exhibits Hosted \*\*\*\***

**7/3**

**Summer Students/Interns**

**2,346**

**Volunteer Hours**

**\$246,600**

**Grants**

**\$19,761.37**

**Fundraising Efforts\*\*\*\*\***

**\$7,224**

**Private Donations**

**\$4,071**

**Gift Shop Revenue**

\*The Blacksmith Shop Museum and Michener House Museum are open from Victoria Day to Labour Day Weekend

\*\*Flatiron Building is open to the public year-round, closed for 2 weeks in December

\*\*\* regional markets, outreach programs, & countywide events

\*\*\*\*Hosted 3 Traveling Exhibits, 3 LDHS Produced Exhibits, and 1 Christmas Artisan Market

\*\*\*\*\* After Expenses. Includes \$7,650 Corporate Donations



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# ONLINE PRESENCE STATISTICS

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**9,391**

Website Users

**671,032**

Google Listings Hits

**91,200**

Google Ad Impressions

**464**

Monthly Newsletter Readers

**448, 192**

Instagram

**77, 413**

Twitter

**170, 474**

Tiktok

**312, 346**

Facebook

Statistics on this page reflect total reach or views





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# 2022 EXHIBITS

## JAN-APR

Canadian Museum of History *"1867: Rebellion & Confederation"*

## JULY-OCT

LDHS *"Botany: the History of Medicines"*

## MAY-JULY

Legacy of Hope Foundation *"Youth on Reconciliation – Imagine A Canada" & "Remembering, Honouring, and The Way Forward: 10 Years After the Indian Residential School Apology"*

## NOV

LDHS *"Portraits of War"*

## DEC

LDHS *"Christmas of Yore Holiday Artisan Market"*

## VIRTUAL

LDHS *"Blueberries for Everyone: Landscape Changes within our County"* a virtual exhibit



Thank you to Servus Credit Union for being a 2022 exhibit sponsor



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# 2023 EXHIBITS

## JAN-APR

LDHS *"Winter Sports in Lacombe"*

## APR-JULY

LDHS *"County Halls, Community Hubs"*

## JULY-SEPT

LDHS *"RePurpose: Regional Artisan Showcase"*

## VIRTUAL

LDHS *"Through the Years, the Flatiron Building"* a virtual exhibit

## JUNE

Tracey-Mae Chambers *"Hope and Healing Canada"*

## JULY

Canadian Language Museum *"Cree the People's Language"*

## OCT

Canadian Language Museum *"Speaking the Inuit Way"*

## OCT-DEC

Canadian Museum of History *"The Ones We Met: Inuit Traditional Knowledge & the Franklin Expedition"*





# NEXT STEPS

In 2023, the Society shall continue its efforts to increase access to the culture and heritage of our region to our community by:

- Continue Move of Collection (20,000+ artifacts and records to go).
- Embark on a Strategic Plan ReOrganization.
- Begin Michener House Museum Relmagination.
- Begin Blacksmith Shop Museum Relmagination.
- Development of Youth Advisory Committee.
- Support regional arts, & cultural/historic groups.
- Host various exhibits at Flatiron Building Museum.
- Continue Indigenous Consultation and Relationship Building.
- Develop new programs & regional events, including those celebrating Indigenous & Métis cultures.
- Develop new off-site programming opportunities; Medicine Walks in county; snowshoeing; exhibits at libraries, etc.
- Host unique Special Events (Harvest Dinner, Blacksmith Hammer-In Festival, etc.).
- Open Dr. Howard Fredeen Research Room to public.
- Continue access to museums with regular hours.
- Participate in region-wide events hosted off-sites.
- Reopen Artifact Collection Process.

And so much more!

# Lacombe Museum

