

The Lacombe & District Historical Society obtains new agreement with City and County Councils to take over the Flatiron Building, turning it into an accredited museum.

(Lacombe, AB) – The Flatiron Building is an integral part of the landscape of Lacombe and Central Alberta, and for years its future has been unknown. The Flatiron Building was put on the real estate market in 2019, but for now its future has been secured as a public museum space. Now the iconic building is joining the family of locations managed by the Lacombe & District Historical Society.

The Lacombe & District Historical Society owns and operates the Michener House Museum and the Lacombe Blacksmith Shop Museum. With the new building lease negotiated in 2021, the Flatiron Building will become the flagship of the Lacombe Museum, and become a major part of the organization's growth. This new addition to the Lacombe Museum family will provide some much-needed space for the museum. Taking over the management of the first three floors of the Flatiron Building will provide the museum with new office space, a year-round gift shop location, a gallery to exhibit temporary displays, and a brand-new home for the Collection and Archives.

With over 40,000 items in the Collection and Archives in the Museum's care, the Lacombe Museum has squeezed every inch out of the current storage location – the basement of the Michener House Museum, the oldest residential building in Lacombe. During initial renovations of the Michener House, which included the addition of the basement in the 80s, the intent was never for the space to be long-term storage of the Collection and Archives for 50+ years. Nor could the Lacombe & District Historical Society members of the past know the sheer number of artifacts and records they would collect over the decades. As such, the Lacombe Museum Collections are currently inaccessible, over capacity, and at risk for exposure to the any one of the [ten agents of deterioration](#). Moving these items into a facility that is better equipped to house them, with industry standard Collections Storage and Display equipment is paramount to our continued work at preserving them for generations to come. With recent funding awarded by the [Museum Assistance Program](#) and the Canadian Heritage Fund, the Lacombe Museum will secure new state-of-the-art compact, rolling collection shelves from [Westbow Systems](#) to help mitigate the storage woes. Applications are being made for the City and County of Lacombe's Community Builder Programs to assist in this capital project.

The Lacombe Museum Collection includes artifacts specific to the Lacombe region and is separated into the following categories: Art & Culture; the Michener Legacy; Military History; Natural History; Western Canadian History and more. The Archives are separate from the Collection and include records from local businesses, people, and special-interest groups. This includes the notable Lacombe Globe Newspaper & Negatives Collection of over 20,000 items, and an impressive collection of Photographic Prints of Negatives, including originals from the Ben Cameron Studios and from Dr. Howard Fredeen totaling an additional 20,000 records.

Moving into the Flatiron Building will allow the Lacombe Museum to increase public access to the collections & records; host vibrant art & history exhibits; and create new events & programs offered throughout the year – the facility, under management of the Lacombe Museum, will assist with the revitalization of the downtown Lacombe area.

Lacombe & District Historical Society

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“We look forward to being a lively part of the downtown community, hosting evening events in this highly visible building such as fiber art classes, gallery tours, history lectures, night tours, moonshine and whiskey tastings and more. Our goals include creating opportunities for the community to visit us and learn more about local history in new and engaging ways, while celebrating and sharing heritage and cultural stories.” – Melissa Blunden, Executive Director of the Lacombe & District Historical Society.

For more information please contact:

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About the Lacombe Museum

Located in Lacombe, AB, the Lacombe Museum is operated by the Lacombe and District Historical Society and operates three buildings: The Michener House Museum, the former Grace Methodist Church parsonage and birthplace of populist Governor General Daniel Roland Michener; The Blacksmith Shop Museum, the oldest operational blacksmith shop in Alberta; and the iconic Flatiron Building Museum in downtown Lacombe.

More information about the Lacombe Museum can be found at: www.lacombemuseum.com