

## **POINTS OF INTEREST**

### **BERGEN**

In 1907 J.T. Johannesen, with a group of his countrymen, founded a Norwegian settlement in this little valley beside Fallentimber Creek. This part of Alberta reminded them of their homeland and they named their settlement Bergen after the Norwegian city. Mr. Johannesen was the first postmaster when a post office was opened November 1907. The name Bergen is derived from *Bjorgvin* translating "meadow between the mountains".

### **BOWDEN SUN MAZE**

The Bowden Sun maze is located 1 hour North of Calgary or 30 min South of Red Deer, just west of Bowden Alberta. Alberta's newest corn maze is constructed into four sections. There are 3 separate corn mazes and one Sunflower Maze. These four mazes combine to create the most unique maze in Alberta for visitors beginning July 26th.

In addition to the Sunflower Maze and Corn Maze, 4 acres of u-pick flowers and u-pick vegetables have been planted. A play area for children and picnic area for families are also available. The bale maze is located right next to the picnic area allowing parents to keep an eye on the little ones while enjoying a cool break in the shade.

### **BOWDEN**

Known as "Gateway to the Parkland", Bowden is conveniently located right off of Highway 2. This bedroom community of almost 1,200 people is located almost halfway between Red Deer and Calgary -25 minutes south of Red Deer and 50 minutes north of Calgary. Connecting highways are Highways 2 and 2A, and SR 587.

Bowden has a long history dating back to 1887 when homesteaders arrived and began to settle the area. The arrival of the Brewster family in 1887 as early homesteaders led to the construction of Bowden's first hotel, "The Brewster House". This landmark drew others and soon Bowden established itself as the stopover for Alberta travelers. Today that role still exists, luring visitors and tourists to some of Alberta's most scenic parks and rivers. As "Gateway to the Parkland", it provides the perfect starting point for your trip.

The first post office was established here in December 1892. There are three explanations for the origin of the name. The first maintains that the name commemorates a place near Manchester, England. The second states that it recalls Bowden near Melrose in Scotland. The third, and most widely accepted version, says that a surveyor named Williamson suggested that this siding on the Edmonton-Calgary Trail takes the maiden name of his wife.

Incorporated as a village in 1904, Bowden celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1954 and, did not become incorporated as a Town until August 1981. The Town of Bowden celebrated its Centennial in 2004.

## **BOWDEN LAKE**

Approximately 3 km west of Bowden.

The lake was named after the town of Bowden, probably soon after it was registered in 1894. This well-established name was officially approved 16 October 1991.

## **DERBYTOWN**

In 1908 D.C. "Bud" Johnston built a store and livery stables on the west side of the Red Deer River at a strategic crossing point on the river where settlers frequently crossed over. In 1909 he sold his store and livery stables to a Mr. James Dames, who named the area Derbytown after his home in Derbyshire, England. Soon afterwards a hall, social centre, blacksmith shop and a livery freight service to Olds were added. This was soon followed by the construction of Water Lily Co-operative Creamery. Derbytown became a bustling little community. In 1914 a Mr. H.O. Yewell bought the store and the dance hall became the Dames' residence. The house burned down during the night some time later. As WW I had claimed the lives of two of the Dames' men, the rest of the family soon left the area. The disastrous flood of 1915 convinced Mr. Yewell that Derbytown was an unsuitable place to live and he consequently moved to the Eagle Hill area and opened another store. The creamery carried on for a couple of years longer, but it soon became evident that a bridge could not be maintained here, so the creamery moved to Sundre. With the loss of the creamery, commerce became unavailable and the community faded out of existence, with the nearby community of Sundre replacing it as the hub of commerce and social gatherings.

## **EAGLE HILL (hill)**

The name Eagle Hill has been used since 1904 when the Post Office and school of that name were established. The hill itself may have been known as Eagle Hill by the native Indians long before that. The name is thought to have originated from an eagle nesting on the tree-covered hill. (Some sources say more than one eagle, while others say someone probably saw an eagle fly over the hill).

## **EAGLE HILL(hamlet)**

Initially established as a post office in June 1903, this hamlet was named for the eagle and a nearby hill. The post office was closed in August 1963 and the locality became a hamlet in 1991. Eagle Hill Co-Op, located here, is today a busy and thriving grocery store / farm supply store and services residents in the surrounding areas.

## **EDGAR FARMS**

Edgar Farms is a well established farm in the Innisfail area, having seen 6 generations raised there. Edgar Farms is currently owned by Elna & Doug Edgar, who, since the early 1980's, have specialized in growing vegetables. Among other vegetables, they have 17 acres of asparagus and 25 acres of garden peas and beans. They offer u-pick beans and peas. Their farm-gate

retail sales store is always open during the summer season offering asparagus, peas and beans, plus the full line of Innisfail Growers locally grown produce. Their fresh, great tasting locally grown vegetables are available at farmer's markets from Calgary to Edmonton under the Innisfail Growers and Edgar Farms banners.

### **JAMES RIVER**

Flows south-east into Red Deer River approximately 15 km north-east of Sundre.

The name for this river, officially approved Dec 2, 1941, is taken from James Dickson, a celebrated Stoney Chief who was one of the councilors who signed Indian Treaty No. 7 in 1877. His name was "Ji-mis" in Cree.

### **JAMES RIVER BRIDGE (locality)(Store)**

Approximately 17 km north of Sundre. The name for this locality, whose post office opened in July 1916 and is still operating today, was taken from the James River. Stop in today for a look at a real "country store".

### **KERNELS CORN MAZE**

Kernels Corn Maze is a 10 acre corn maze located 5.5 km south of Hwy 27 and 1.5 km east of Hwy 22. Now in its third year of operation, they offer a themed corn maze (this year it's a fire truck, while in 2007 it was a helicopter), a large picnic area with lots of mature trees, horseshoe pits and volleyball net, a sand box with toys, a play house for the kids, as well as a bale maze with kids' cars. They offer special events such as wagon rides, corn roasts and a special Halloween celebration. Be sure to check out the small barn animals at critters' corner and say 'hi' to Peanut the donkey!

### **LITTLE RED DEER STORE**

The Little Red Deer Store was built in 1935 and was located where the gates to Westward Ho Park are now, about 1 km straight south of its current location.

When the routing of the Olds/Sundre Highway changed in the early 1950's the store was moved to its present location in 1955.

### **OLDS**

In July of 1890, the first contracts were let for construction of the Calgary & Edmonton Railway. Construction proceeded north from Calgary with a siding built approximately every ten miles. When they reached the 6th Siding, a section foreman, David Shannon, arrived in an open hand car and applied for rights to a section of land which gave him the distinction of being the first settler in this area.

The C & E Railway system was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway a month after completion. The 6th Siding was designed for a railway station and C.P.R. officials had to select a name for the station. They suggested "Shannon" after David Shannon, however, he was too modest a person and declined the honour.

The next selection for a station name was that of "Olds", after Mr. George Olds, the C.P.R. Traffic Manager for the area when the line was being built. Because of the railway, the next few years saw a great increase in the number of settlers and also the business enterprises that sprang up to serve them. By 1894 the population of the hamlet had reached 100, and a form of local government was instituted. In 1900, Olds was registered as an incorporated village of the Northwest Territories. Mr. William Dean, a constable with the NWMP, had the distinction of becoming the first Mayor of Olds, when the town was incorporated in 1905.

Craig's, started in 1898, is the oldest continuously operated business in Olds. The current store is situated in the same location as the original building. Another long running business in town is the AJ Restaurant (formerly Public Lunch) established in 1918.

To aid farmers and the new wave of settlers arriving via the railway, the Department of Agriculture established Demonstration Farms to show how to farm in Alberta. Olds was chosen for the site of the first farm. The school, now known as Olds College, opened in 1913 and has operated continuously to this date, attracting students from the local community and around the world.

Olds continues to be a central hub for agriculture and industry in the central Alberta area.

### **PEARSON'S BERRY FARM**

Pearson's Berry Farm is a family owned and operated saskatoon berry farm situated in the peaceful parkland setting of the Red Deer River valley. Only 90 minutes from Calgary and 40 minutes from Red Deer this farm is a great place to visit. They are open from May 15 to October 1, Tuesday to Sunday (and holiday Mondays) 9 am to sundown.

In 1969 the first of many saskatoon bushes were planted, making them the first commercial grower of saskatoons in the world. Over the years their operation has grown from a u-pick to include the production of low sugar spreads and award winning pies. The original log house built over 60 years ago is now home to Joycie's Gift and Craft Shoppe.

Along with snacks and meals all of their farm-made spreads and baked goods are available at the refreshment stand and cafe.

Pearsons Berry Farm is easy to find, just 28km west of Bowden on highway 587. They can also be reached from highway 22 or any number of back roads. Glennifer Lake is only 20 minutes away. There are signs to follow if you need them.

## **SUNDRE**

Located at the base of the Rocky Mountain Foothills on the banks of the scenic Red Deer River, the Town of Sundre is a thriving town of 2,267 persons, providing all of the advantages of "small town living" plus the benefits of the progressive development of a growing population. It is 40 km (25 miles) west of Olds, 130 km (80 miles) northwest of Calgary and 100 km (62 miles) southwest of Red Deer. Sundre is easily accessible by two major highways and two secondary highways, which are all paved and in good to excellent condition. The Sundre Airport has a 4,285 foot paved lighted runway, a modern terminal and nine hangars. The airport has also a helicopter pad.

The town takes its name from Sundre, Norway, the home of N.T. Hagen, the first settler and postmaster who arrived in 1906. As a young man he first went to the United States and later came to Canada. When he arrived in the Sundre area he purchased land and the store from David McDougall.

The name "Sundre" (Söndre) means "south". The post office opened in January 1909. The town was incorporated Jan 1 1956.

The Bow Crow Forest Reserve - a haven for recreationalists and camera buffs - is a short drive west. It is here that the Forestry Trunk Road connects tourists to a wealth of experiences and adventures involving pristine lakes, tumbling waterfalls and abundant wildlife.

As you descend from the top of the Sundre Hill and down into the picturesque valley below, the Town of Sundre blossoms before your eyes. With the rippling Bearberry Creek flowing into the majestic Red Deer River, the town of Sundre is richly-blessed with tremendous natural beauty. Situated at the base of the glorious Rocky Mountain foothills, 2,300 residents are proud to call Sundre their home. Residents are provided with the advantages of continual, progressive development, while enjoying the relaxation afforded by small-town living.

Recreational activities encompass a kaleidoscope of facilities, activities, and events. Man-made and natural trails meander along the river and creeks, not only allowing access to the arena, curling rink, pool, green spaces, and playgrounds, but to a bounty of nature's diverse and calming beauties. In the middle of town is Snake Hill, a natural landmark and recreation area which appears to benignly watch over the town throughout the seasons. The hill offers summer hiking trails, from which there are impressive views of the surrounding countryside, and a variety of winter leisure and sport activities, including nordic skiing, tobogganing, and snowboarding.

## **VITALITY CRYSTALS & FOUNTAINS**

Vitality Crystals and Fountains is just 4 minutes west of Bowden. Just east of RR 15 on the south side of the road, watch for the purple highway sign! View and connect with crystals from around the world! There are wonderful healing stones, unique gemstone jewelry pieces, and tranquil fountains created by Melanie, all displayed in a cabin store. Rejuvenate your soul with

the serenity of hand-built fountains, rose quartz lamps, amethyst cathedrals, Himalyan salt lamps, and so much more! View one-of-a-kind pieces and take a few home for yourself.

### **WESTERDALE**

The name for the post office, which was operated from August 1910 through February 1932, is taken from a parish of the same name in Yorkshire, England.

### **WESTWARD HO**

The name for this hamlet, whose post office operated from April 1905 through February 1970, was taken after Charles Kinglsey's novel "Westward Ho!" published in 1855. The name was suggested by Captain Thomas, a British army officer and early settler.

Nestled along the banks of the Little Red Deer River, the Westward Ho campground offers a variety of camping experiences. It also has 2 well used baseball diamonds, as well as hiking trails and horseshoe pits.

The first building as you turn east off RR 4.4 towards Westward Ho Park is the remnants of a general store and was the site of the post office. This store and the service station just slightly to the north operated until the early 1980's.

### **WHITE CREEK**

Flows east into Little Red Deer River, approximately 22 km southwest of Innisfail. This creek was previously called "Spring Creek" and was later named for the two White brothers, Bert and Owen, who homesteaded here in 1902. Not long afterward Bert was drowned trying to cross the Little Red Deer River. The White Creek district was named after White Creek. The name for this creek was officially approved 3 October 1991.

The site of the old White Creek Store is now a private residence, however just across the road is White Creek Gifts, a craft and gift store.

### **ZELLA**

(info taken from *Zella Remembers : from oil lamps to oil wells* by Zella Women's Institute Didsbury, Alta., 1977 pg 260-263

Zella School District No 1078 was named for Zella Houston, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Houston, who passed away at the age of 3 ½ years.

On September 22, 1904 the first meeting of the Zella District Board of Trustees was held. It was decided to build a school that would measure 24 feet wide, 32 feet long and 12 foot studding on an 18 inch stone wall foundation. As it was decided this building would also double as a social gathering place, the decision was made to make an arched ceiling.

In the fall of 1954 the Zella School was closed and the children were bused to Harmattan. The school was purchased by the community for \$150.00 and re-named the Zella Community Centre. Donations from the local community raised the funds necessary to add electricity and a kitchen. The centre is used for church services, meetings, social affairs and an annual Bazaar sponsored by the Zella Womens Institute.

*Acknowledgements:*

*The previous information was taken from the following sources:*

*Bowden Sun Maze website*

*Edgar Farms website*

*Our Future Our Past – Place Names of Alberta Vol III website*

*Pearson's Berry Farm website*

*Prairies 2 Peaks website*

*Sundre Chamber of Commerce website*

*Town of Bowden website*

*Town of Olds website*

*Town of Sundre website*

*Wagon Trails Plowed Under – History Book published by a group of 7 people from Eagle Valley*

*Vitality Crystals & Fountains – Melanie Anderson*

*Zella Remembers : from oil lamps to oil wells by Zella Women's Institute Didsbury, Alta., 1977  
pg 260-263*