100 *Years*

Battleford

1904 - 2004

Incorporated June 15th, 1904

FIRST
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
of
BATTLEFORD
THE OLD CAPITAL OF N.W.T.
ELECTED JULY 1904.

A. Rowland. P.G. Speers.
R.C. Laurie. H. M'Kenzie.
ALBERT CHAMPAGNE, Mayor
S.H. Clarke. V. Latour.

Mayor Gail Sack
2004
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
of
BATTLEFORD

David George Derek Mahon
Gordon Yarde Doug Sack

2004 CENTENNIAL OF INCORPORATION:
In 2004, the 130-year-old community of Battleford celebrates 100 years of incorporation as a Town. The *Battleford Centennial Celebration Committee* has planned a number of events and activities and is working with other groups/organizations that will also be incorporating the *100th theme* in their annual events.

BATTLEFORD
100 YEARS

Home Coming Week
June 13 - 19, 2004

SUNDAY • JUNE 13
• Church Service
• Antique Vehicle Show
• Petting Zoo

MONDAY • JUNE 14
• Tours & Exploration Day
MON - FRI • JUNE 14 - 18
• Historic Weapons Demonstrations
— Fort Battleford National Historic Site

TUESDAY • JUNE 15 — *CENTENNIAL DAY*
• Re-Enactment of Signing
• Governor's Ball

WED - FRI • JUNE 16 - 18
• Dinner Theatre

THURSDAY • JUNE 17
• Farmers' Market/Flea Market

FRIDAY • JUNE 18
• Masonic Room
  Dedication & Entertainment

SATURDAY • JUNE 19
• B.C.I/B.C.Y.C. hosting
  an Open House
• 1879-style Baseball Game

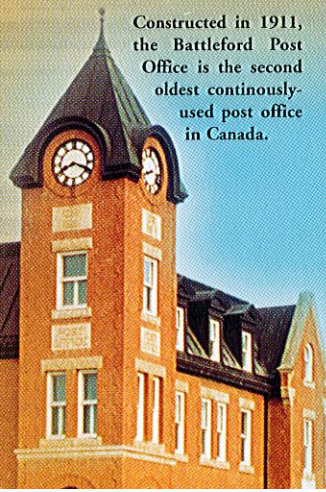|	
THURSDAY ~ JULY 1, 2004:	Canada Day
FRIDAY ~ JULY 16 TO 17, 2004:	Saskatchewan Craft Council's Handcraft Festival
FRIDAY ~ JULY 16, 2004:	Town's Annual Parade & Fireworks / Battleford Promotion Society Street Dance
SATURDAY ~ AUGUST 21, 2004:	Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Dinner
SATURDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 11, 2004:	Battleford Promotion Society Corn Fest
FRIDAY ~ OCTOBER 22, 2004:	Knights of Columbus Dinner – celebrating 2 birthdays
Saturday ~ OCTOBER 23, 2004:	Ducks Unlimited Dinner & Auction
Saturday ~ NOVEMBER 13, 2004:	N.B. Lions Octoberfest
Saturday ~ DECEMBER 4, 2004:	Lions 2000 Craft Show
FRIDAY ~ DECEMBER 31, 2004:	"Kick Out 2004" and "Kick In 2005" – Saskatchewan's 100th Birthday

Constructed in 1911, the Battleford Post Office is the second oldest continuously-used post office in Canada.

People and Places of Battleford

Battleford has been fortunate over it's life-time in being home to many residents who through their various achievements have impacted not only the citizens of this community, but the citizens of our larger community — the province of Saskatchewan and the country as a whole.

The following is just a brief example of the many people and the places that honour them.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER (ALEX) DILLABOUGH – 1913-1997, farmed the Drummond Creek/Cleveland District, located west of Battleford until 1963 when he and his family moved to Battleford. Along with farming, Alex was also a storeowner and mechanic and he also served on the R.M of Battle River Council for nine years.

Alex continued his interest in all aspects of civic affairs and in all areas promoting a better quality of life for all ages and in more particular the senior citizens throughout his lifetime. He helped promote and establish the River Heights Lodge in North Battleford, serving as vice-chair and as president of the Board. He was a principal organizer of the group that built a number of senior and low-rental units in Battleford. Alex was chair of the Saskatchewan Association of Special Care Homes from 1966 to 1969. He was also on the original committee that resulted in the Battlefords District Care Centre being established. Alex was intently involved in the Hill Crest organization for seniors and in the building of the Hill Crest Centre for which he donated the land.

Alex was elected to Town Council as Alderman in 1967 serving until 1976 when he was elected as Mayor. He continued in this capacity until he retired in November 1984. During his tenure on Council, Battleford experienced one of its largest and strongest growth periods. With a significant increase in population, followed the opening of two housing subdivisions, the building of a new police station, an Arena, a Community Centre and the development of a NOCO Industrial Park. During this time, there were many historic restoration projects which included Town Hall, the Bank of Montreal Building, the CN Station, the Post Office, the Court House, the (old) St. Vital School.

Alex was named the Battlefords and District Citizen of the Year for 1994, and was the recipient of the prestigious *Art Sloan Memorial Award*. Also, in his honour, the Community Centre in Battleford was named the *Alex Dillabough Centre*.

Born DONALD MATHISON FINLAYSON (DAN) in London, Ontario in 1849, "Dan" and his brother Roderick journeyed to Battleford in 1879, Joined by another brother, John, they farmed six miles south west of Battleford in an area known as the Lindequist District. Although burned out during the 1885 Rebellion, Dan and his family remained in the area until 1892 when they moved their farming operations to Round Hill in the Iffley District. Dan was elected to the Legislature in 1908 representing the Fond Du Lac District, which included Battleford. He served his constituency until retiring in 1934. Dan died December 30, 1934 ending a life devoted to family, community and constituency. *Finlayson Island* located on the North Saskatchewan River between the Battlefords is named in his honor.

Finlayson Island is located on the North Saskatchewan River between the bridges that were constructed in 1904 – 1905. The island was named on March 25, 1964 by the Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan in honour of Donald (Dan) Matheson Finlayson.

The forest covering Finlayson Island is termed a *Riparian Forest*, which means living on the bank of a river. The terrain is virtually unchanging across the island, but many different soil types and moisture regimes result in a wide variety of plant materials. Along with the wide range of

CAMPBELL INNES was born August 14, 1886, in Kincardine Township, Bruce County, Ontario. His career was in education but his passion was history, the preservation of historic sites and the recognition of the many people who were so deserving.

Mr. Innes started his teaching career in Culross Bruce County, Ontario in 1905. He continued to upgrade his own education, obtaining his M.A. from Queen's University in 1920. During these years, he taught in schools in Alberta and Saskatchewan before arriving in Battleford in 1920 to become the principal of the high school. Battleford remained his home, except for two (2) years (1931-1933) until his death March 18, 1961 in a tragic car accident which also claimed his wife.

In 1924, Mr. Innes was instrumental in forming the Battleford Historical Society (in 1927 to become the Canadian North West Historical Society). He was also the main driving force in preserving the original buildings and area, which now form *Fort Battleford National Historic Site*.
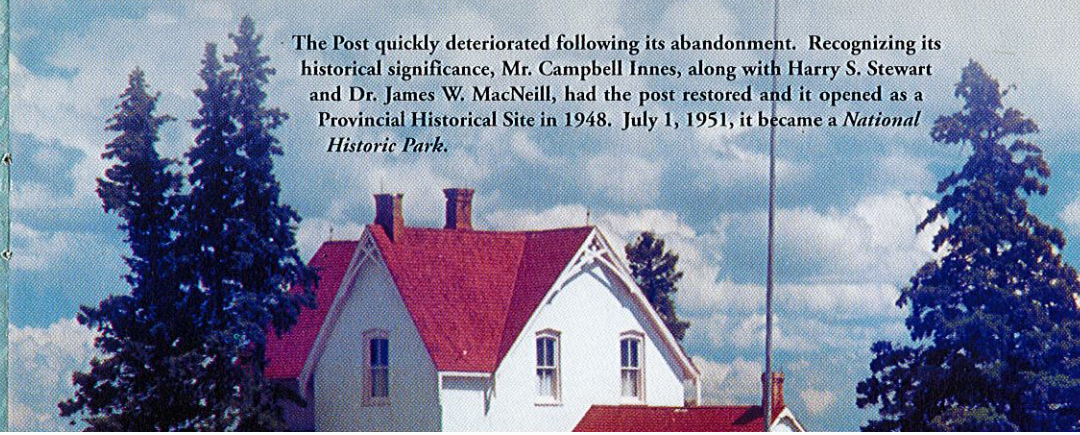
By order of Privy Council, Mr. Innes was appointed in 1951 to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, retiring in 1955.
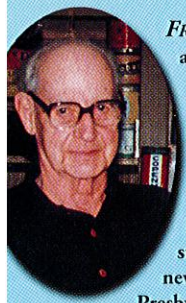
FORT BATTLEFORD is one of Canada's oldest National Historic Sites. Started in 1876 as Battle River Post, housing a detachment of the North West Mounted Police, it quickly grew from 12 men and 16 horses to 200 men and 107 horses in 1885.

The Post became the focal point for the Canadian Government's Military Operations and the base during the 1885 Rebellion. It also became the shelter for approximately 500 people during the 1885 tensions. The Post continued to grow over the next 30 years encompassing nearly 50 buildings at its height. It remained a focal point for police activities until it closed in 1924.

The Post quickly deteriorated following its abandonment. Recognizing its historical significance, Mr. Campbell Innes, along with Harry S. Stewart and Dr. James W. MacNeill, had the post restored and it opened as a Provincial Historical Site in 1948. July 1, 1951, it became a *National Historic Park*.
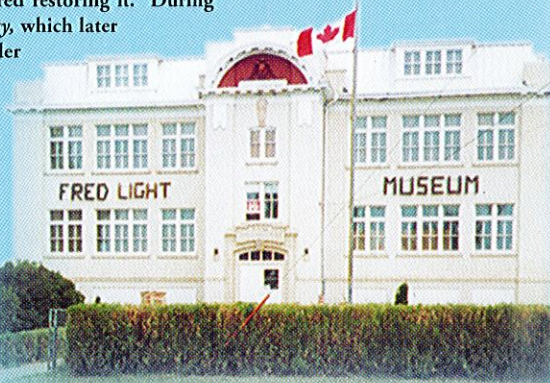
FREDERICK GEORGE LIGHT was born April 20, 1908 to Staff Sergeant Frederick Walter Light and Phyllis Light in the N.W.M.P. Barracks in Battleford. A life-long resident of Battleford, Fred attended Battleford Elementary and High School. Attending high school, Fred came under the influence of Mr. Campbell Innes (noted for the restoration of Fort Battleford) who possibly instilled in Fred his love of history which led him to his collection, preservation and restoration of western historic artifacts as they pertained to Battleford and the early North West.

Fred was known far and wide for his firearms collection, which were displayed in his service station known as the *Light House*. Retiring and selling his business in 1965 meant finding a new home for his collections. Arrangements were made with the Town to lease the Gardiner Presbyterian Church in return for Fred restoring it. During

this time, Fred created the *Battleford Restoration Society,* which later
became the *Battleford and District Museum Board* under
jurisdiction of the Town. In the 1970's, Fred sold
collections to the Saskatchewan Government who
agreed to the collection remaining in the Town. At
this time the collection was moved to the old St. Vital
School, which was owned by the Town and Fred
embarked on another restoration project on the
building which would be named the *Fred Light
Museum.*

FRED LIGHT MUSEUM

well-respected businessman, Fred served on Town
Council, the Home and School Board and the
Board of Trade. He was involved with the
Volunteer Fire Department, the Boy Scouts and
Battleford Hockey Association.

Fred passed away July 7, 1998. He is gone but he left all of us an incomparable legacy in the history of Battleford.

The *Fred Light Museum* was originally built as the St. Vital School in 1914. The school closed in 1974 and the building became the property of the Town. Mr. Fred Light, a noted local historian and collector, was given the use of this facility to exhibit many artifacts of early Battleford life and his extensive firearm collection. The Museum continues to this day and is a popular tourist destination.

DAVID W. SHURY S.V.M. Q.C was born and raised in Wilkie, Saskatchewan. David obtained his law degree in 1954 from the University of Saskatchewan. He practiced law in the Battlefords until he retired in 1992.
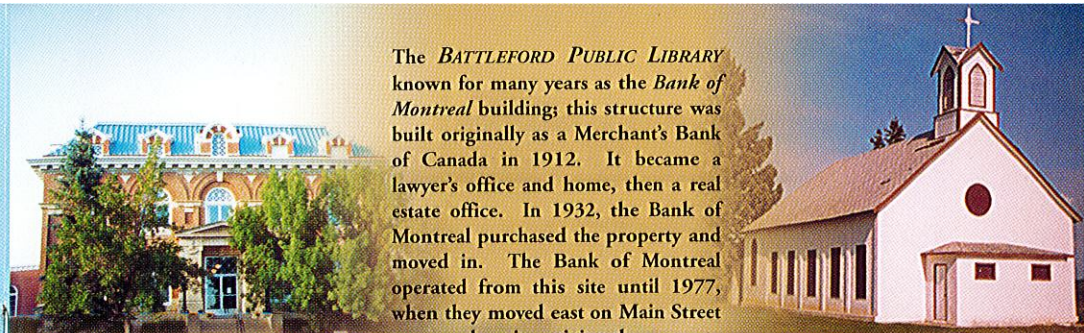
As a boy, he played baseball. He then continued his love of the game coaching and managing, then promoting, organizing and developing baseball leagues in Saskatchewan and Canada. He served on numerous executive positions on many provincial, inter-provincial and national baseball organizations. He is founder of the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum located in Battleford.

David was also very active in other organizations throughout his active years and has accumulated a very long list of achievements including the Canada Medal in 1984 and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal in 1999. He was inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame in 1987, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in St. Mary's Ontario in 2002 and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in Regina in 2003.

Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was founded by
Dave Shury in 1983. Membership has grown from 125 in the first year
over 700. The Directors are volunteers and represent all corners of the
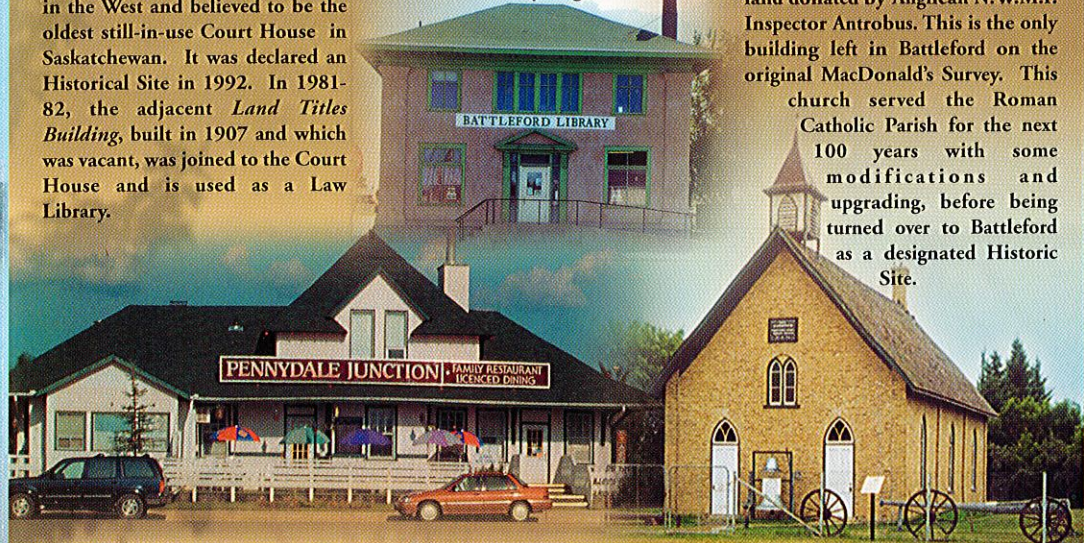province.

Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is located in
Battleford at 292-22nd Street West. (It was formerly located in the Old
Gardiner Presbyterian Church). It has an outstanding display of baseball
memorabilia including artifacts, photos, papers, books, etc…

Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum hosts an annual banquet (the 3rd Saturday of August) where selected individuals, teams, families and communities are inducted into the Hall of Fame and Museum. The first
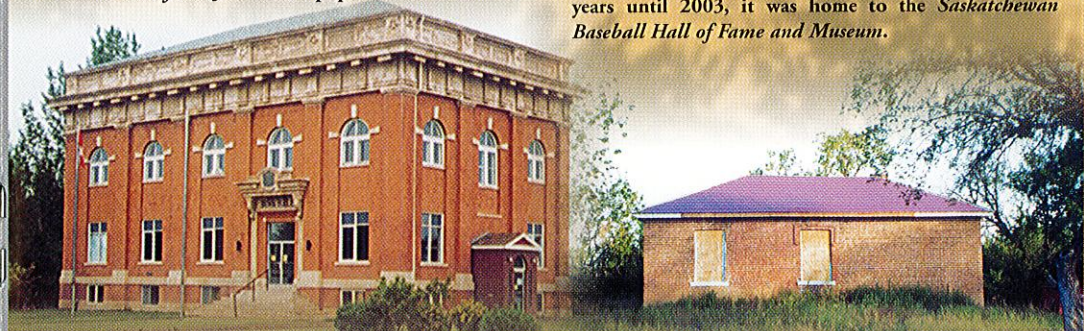

The *COURT HOUSE* was built in 1907-1909. It is one of the finest examples of classical architecture in the West and believed to be the oldest still-in-use Court House in Saskatchewan. It was declared an Historical Site in 1992. In 1981-82, the adjacent *Land Titles Building,* built in 1907 and which was vacant, was joined to the Court House and is used as a Law Library.

BATTLEFORD LIBRARY

The *BATTLEFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY* known for many years as the *Bank of Montreal* building; this structure was built originally as a Merchant's Bank of Canada in 1912. It became a lawyer's office and home, then a real estate office. In 1932, the Bank of Montreal purchased the property and moved in. The Bank of Montreal operated from this site until 1977, when they moved east on Main Street to a new location, giving the property to the Town as a Heritage Site. In 1980, the building re-opened as the *Battleford Public Library* within the Lakeland Library Region.

(Old) *ST. VITAL'S CHURCH* was built in 1883 of logs donated by the Presbyterian Finlayson Brothers on land donated by Anglican N.W.M.P. Inspector Antrobus. This is the only building left in Battleford on the original MacDonald's Survey. This church served the Roman Catholic Parish for the next 100 years with some modifications and upgrading, before being turned over to Battleford as a designated Historic Site.

PENNYDALE JUNCTION FAMILY RESTAURANT LICENCED DINING

The *CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY STATION* was built in 1907 to service a spur line running through Battleford, becoming the *Canadian National Railway* in 1919. When the spur line was closed, the Station was sold to the Town in 1973 and moved to its present location in 1975. Designated a Historic Building, it is home to *Pennydale Junction,* a popular restaurant.

The *GARDINER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH* was built in 1886 of locally manufactured brick. This was the first brick church in Western Canada. Following Church Union in 1922, it was used as a meeting hall until 1966. It became the property of the Town and was leased to Mr. Fred Light who repaired and restored it. For many years until 2003, it was home to the *Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.*

The *TOWN HALL/OPERA HOUSE* building was constructed in 1912 for $40,000.00. The first Council meeting to be held in this facility was November 4, 1912. It continues to this day to be used for the administration

The *LAND REGISTRY OFFICE* is located on the crest of the Ridge to the south of the Battle River and was the first Land Registry Office in the North West Territories. It was the first brick building in Saskatchewan. It was made from

T LOT

s very popular facility was originally built by BCYC in
1, then totally redesigned and modernized in 1991. Free
all youth 11 years and under; open June to August;
ted on 2nd Avenue at 24th Street.

PARK

ated on 35th Street
ween 2nd and 3rd Avenue;
hed in 1981. Covers 1.65
, includes open green
e and play equipment.
play equipment installed
997.

KINSMEN PARK

Located on 17th and 3rd
Avenue, built in approximately
1980. Completely upgraded in
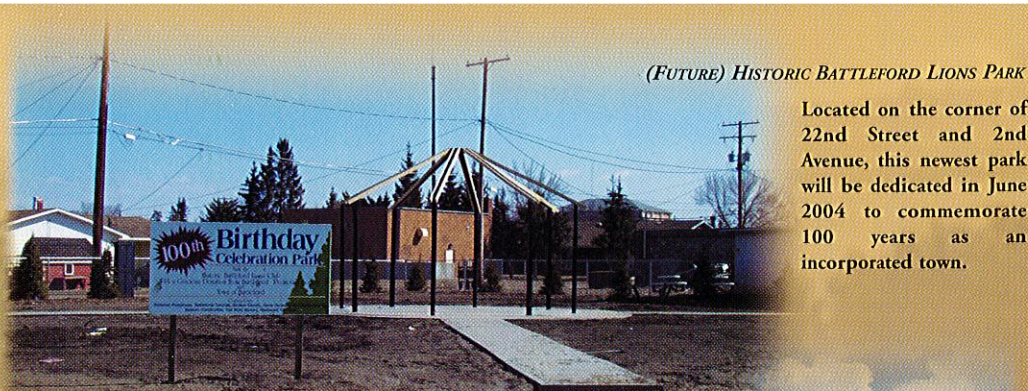1997/98 with new play
equipment installed.

ENOTAPH

cated on 2nd Avenue
ween 24th and 25th,
was built in the 1920s
honour the men who
ed in WWI. Totally
built in 1981, it now
o honours those who
t their lives in 1885,
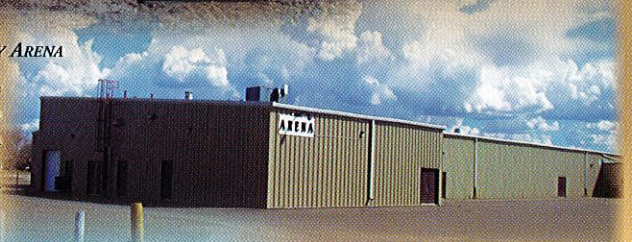WII and the Korean
flict.

(FUTURE) HISTORIC BATTLEFORD LIONS PARK

Located on the corner of
22nd Street and 2nd
Avenue, this newest park
will be dedicated in June
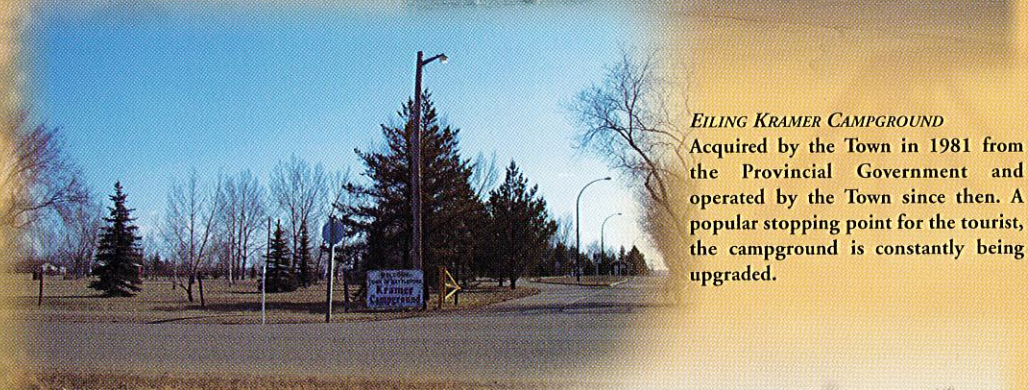2004 to commemorate
100 years as an
incorporated town.

HISTORIC BATTLEFORD LIONS AND COMMUNITY ARENA

Opened in 1978 with artificial ice and all the
modern amenities of the day, renovated in
1999 with a larger ice surface and an addition
to the north end, this facility will continue to
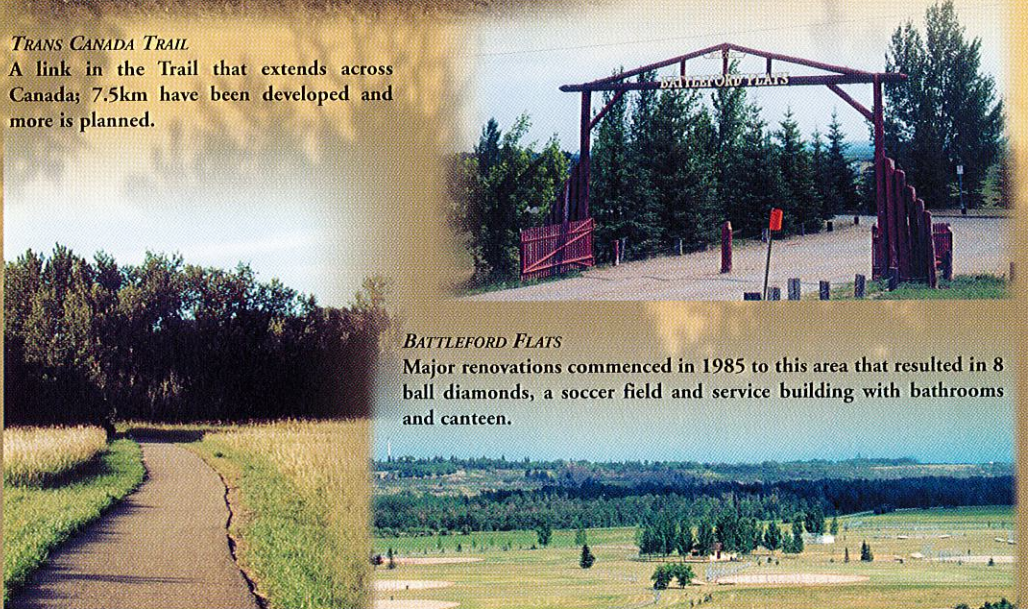serve the community – year round – for many
years to come.

EILING KRAMER CAMPGROUND

Acquired by the Town in 1981 from
the Provincial Government and
operated by the Town since then. A
popular stopping point for the tourist,
the campground is constantly being
upgraded.

TRANS CANADA TRAIL

A link in the Trail that extends across
Canada; 7.5km have been developed and
more is planned.

BATTLEFORD FLATS

Major renovations commenced in 1985 to this area that resulted in 8
ball diamonds, a soccer field and service building with bathrooms
and canteen.

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

ST. VITAL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

UNITED CHURCH

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

ST. VITAL SCHOOL

BATTLEFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

A - Fort Battleford
B - Camp Ground
    (site of 1st Baseball
    game played in Sask.)
C - Mass Grave
D - Fred Light Museum
E - N.W.M.P. Cemetery
F - Cenotaph Park
G - Battleford Cemetery
H - Colonel Otter Park
I - Land Office
J - Sask. Herald Cairn
K - Telegraph Flats Cairn
L - Old Government
    House Site

Historic Battleford

100 Years Battleford
1904 · 2004
Incorporated, June 15th, 1904

Town of BATTLEFORD

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

BATTLE RIVER

FINLAYSON ISLAND
Summer Hiking
and Winter Ski Trails

BALL DIAMONDS

FORT BATTLEFORD
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

FRED LIGHT MUSEUM

WEST PARK

BATTLEFORD CEMETERY

Battleford Centennial Celebration Committee

Mayor – Gail Sack
Chairperson –
Marion (Nan) Sheppard
Sheila Finlay

Darlene Kingwell
Ann McArthur
Ron Sack
Shannon Breton

Myrna Sprecker
Gary McArthur
Sheryl Ballendine
Gene Thera

Sub-Committees

PROMOTION / MARKETING

Darlene Kingwell (Chairperson)
Debbie Miller
Mark Miller
Owen Einsiedler

Diane Waines
Ryan Bater
Donna Challis
Donna Gabruch

GOVERNOR'S BALL

Ann McArthur (Chairperson)
Christine Sas
Diane Atcheynum
Diana Graham
Jean Schwan

Linda Sheppard
Pam Beaver
Irene Sack
Judy Pruden
Myrna Sprecker

DECORATION

Linda Sheppard (Chairperson)
Jean Schwan

Pam Beaver
Myrna Sprecker

DINNER / THEATRE

Marion (Nan) Sheppard (Chairperson)   Ralph Smart

CENTENNIAL HEADQUARTERS

Eleanor Smart

FARMERS' / FLEA MARKETS

Sheryl Ballendine
Darlene Kingwell

Susan Demchuck

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge all those named and unnamed volunteers who gave so generously of their time to ensure that the activities and functions proceeded from dreams to reality. Thank you.

Thank you to:

Daniel St. Amant
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
North Battleford Kinette Club
Fort Battleford National Historic Site
Battlefords Community Players
Fred Light Museum Board of Directors
Battleford Collegiate Institute Reunion Committee

Battleford Community Youth Club Reunion Committee
Sask. Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum Board of Directors
Historic Battleford Lions Club
RE/MAX of the Battlefords

Battleford

A time to sit and reflect
On years that have passed
A sense of pride and self-respect
From all those that have massed

Pay homage to those who came
Our praise they do deserve
They came with no thought of fame
Their example we should observe

The seed that they had planted
One hundred years in the past
We should not take for granted
And forever and ever it shall last

We must create our own history
So future generations can look and see
To grow and prosper is no mystery
Just a vision to want and be

Battleford a wonderful community
Lets go forth and show our pride
Hold our heads high with dignity
Our love for home we cannot hide

Daniel St. Amant