

Cardium Theatre est. 1957



The Cardium Theatre was so much more than a theatre! In its early days, it was occasionally used as the town "Courthouse".

Now serving the community as the Eleanor Pickup

Performing Arts Centre (EPAC), it was aptly named after one of Drayton Valley's most dedicated citizens. Eleanor taught music for more than 60 years and her belief that the arts enriched our quality of life lives on in this beautiful facility.

Today, it is the main venue for many exciting shows. Brilliant musical performances, thought provoking theatre productions, inspirational speakers and even our annual Performing Arts Festival are held here. The EPAC has undergone many upgrades, unveiling its beautiful new stage in 2013.

Drayton Valley Hotel est. 1955



The following is an excerpt from the Drayton Valley Tribune on Feb 17, 1955.

"Drayton Valley has Luxury Hotel ... The ladies' lounge is 32 x 40 feet, and the men's lounge is 50 x 70 feet. A modern barbershop occupies a place near the front entrance, and the five other establishments operating under the same roof tend to make the hotel a little city in a city. In the basement a laundry service is operating, while on the main floor a bank, a doctor's office, a clothing store, a pharmacy and a large coffee shop may be found..."

The Hotel was and still is the largest building in downtown and was the centre of community social activity.

Drayton Valley is nestled high above the North Saskatchewan River where rolling valleys meet the prairies. Considered a "young" community by many standards, we are none the less proud of our heritage. The Historical Walking Tour is just one of the ways we celebrate that heritage.

British author, Virginia Woolf once said, "History is beautiful, simply because it evokes emotion." Our hope is that this walking tour does just that.

As you stroll along the sidewalks of our Downtown area, let your imagination take you to a time where gas was just .20 cents a gallon...where the average home was under \$20,000.00. and where a "White Bull Burger" was, and still is one of the BEST burgers you will ever sink your teeth into. Enjoy!



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Drayton Valley Historical Downtown



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Royal Canadian Legion 269
est. 1957

The Legion Hall and Lounge was built in 1957 on land donated by the MacKenzie Family. The existing card room was the legion hall and drinks were served in the lounge located in the basement.

The legion has since seen four expansions over the years and continues to be visited by local veterans, family and friends.



The Legion murals and the first Wall of Honor were unveiled in the Spring of 2000. The mural depicts many of our local heroes who served from the first World War to current conflicts.

The Cenotaph now proudly displays monuments from every sector of the Canadian Armed Forces; Land, Sea and Air.

Legion Cenotaph
est. 1974

Centennial Arena
est. 1966



The Arena was a welcomed addition to the Town. Youth had a place to spend time and enjoy all different kinds of fun activities. It was a meeting place that brought the residents closer together. You could visit with your neighbor while watching a local hockey game and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

The arena may have been a bit chilly, but the athletes were more than happy with a space they could call their own.

R.C.M.P. Detachment
est. 1955



The building on 51st Avenue housed the RCMP when the first detachment arrived in Drayton Valley in 1955. It remained occupied by the police force until 1985 when the RCMP moved to its impressive new office. Since then the old structure has been the headquarters of the local busy Chamber of Commerce.

"If history were taught in the form of stories,
it would never be forgotten."
~ Rudyard Kipling ~

Drayton Valley Bakery
est. 1955



Over 60 years of heavenly aroma permeate the air when you walk by the Drayton Valley Bakery. Still a popular gathering place, children are still seen pressing their noses against the glass show cases, fingers pointing at that special "SOMETHING".

In the early days, when women were not permitted in taverns, they would often gather at the Bakery for coffee and a visit, while their husbands "toasted" a hard days' work at the local hotel.

White Bull Cafe
est. 1956



Initially owned by "Chef Pierre", and in fact a bakery, the White Bull Café opened its' doors on July 9, 1956. It quickly became one of Drayton Valley's favorite breakfast and lunch spots. The glassed-in showcase of fresh baked goods and homemade pies was one of the first things you saw when you stepped inside the doors.

Unfortunately, its' original location, tucked in beside the Cardium Theatre, did not stand the test of time, but the business certainly has. Fondly referred to as "The Bull", it continues to thrive in its new location and the famous "Bull Burgers" and old fashioned milk shakes, served up in their metal cups, remain customer favorites!