

Wainwright Memorial Clock Tower



Celebrating 100 years

1925 to 2025

PROGRAMME
of the
DEDICATION SERVICES
of the
MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER

erected by the
Walter Musson Chapter, I.O.D.E.

Wainwright, Alberta

Sunday, September 13, 1925

at 2:30 p.m.

Hymn—"O Canada"

Prayer—Rev. Andrew Love

Address—Mayor E. L. Cork

Reply—Mrs. Adelina Lasell, regent
I.O.D.E.

UNVEILING Memorial Tablet—The

Hon. Senator Major-Gen. W. A.

Griesbach, D.S.O., C.B., C.M.G.

The DEDICATORY PRAYER will be
offered by the Rev. A. Love.

One minute of silence will be observed.

Bugler Frank Stott will sound "Last
Post"

Placing Floral Tributes—The School
Children

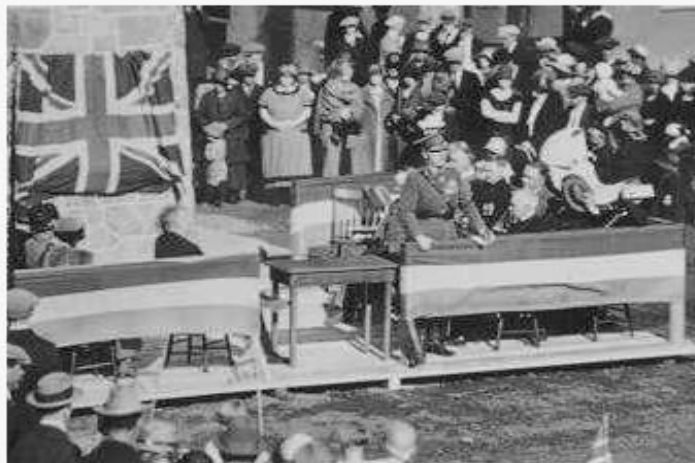
Hymn—"O, God, our help in ages past"

Addresses will be given by—

Capt. G. L. Hudson, representing
the G. W. V. A., and

Major Marcus Strachan, V.C.

Benediction—Rev. Andrew Love
GOD SAVE THE KING!



Major-Gen. Griesbach Unveiling the Memorial Tablet



Memorial Clock Tower One Hour After the Unveiling

PROGRAMME
of the
100th ANNIVERSARY
of the
MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER
Wainwright, Alberta

Saturday, September 13, 2025
at 2:30 p.m.

March to Clock Tower

Introduction

Land Acknowledgement - Wing Smudge
Indigenous Society Elder Charles Powell
and Autumn "Thunderchild Woman" Coutre

Hymn "O Canada" - Tanner Frissell

Bugler "Last Post" - Sheldon Frissell

One minute of silence

Act of Remembrance - Royal Canadian Legion

Reveille - Sheldon Frissell

Prayer - Senior Chaplain Major Steele Lazerte

Addresses - Mayor Pugh
Reeve Wildeboer
Base Commander LCol MacLeod
Valerie Braiden, IODE Alberta

Placing Floral Tributes - The School Children

Hymn - "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" - Wainwright Men's Choir

Introductions/Addresses

Unveiling - Anniversary Plaque by Royal Canadian Legion Veterans

God Save the King - Wainwright Men's Choir

March to Legion

Closing

Complimentary anniversary cupcakes

- to follow at the Royal Canadian Legion, 1030-2nd Avenue

BBQ and Live Music (by donation)

- to follow at Royal Canadian Legion, 1030-2 Avenue

Memorial Clock Tower exhibit

- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Wainwright & District Museum, 1001-1 Avenue



Memorial Clock Tower After 2025 Restoration



MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER

200 - 10 Street

The Memorial Clock Tower is a municipally designated historic resource and is proudly listed on the Alberta Register of Historic Places. It was built to honour those who lost their lives in the First World War and later to include World War Two. Recently, recognition was added for lives lost in Afghanistan and Peace Keeping missions around the world. Each Remembrance Day, citizens of Wainwright along with the Royal Canadian Legion, gather around this memorial and pay tribute to those who fell in the wars.

The Memorial Clock Tower was the only structure left standing after what was, at the time, the worst fire in the history of small town Alberta swept through Wainwright destroying 70 businesses and 8 homes in the summer of 1929. Described as a “Roman Tower”, the monument was designed and built by Frank Bailey. The clocks in the monument were purchased from Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, England. The bronze tablet set in the masonry, which lists the fallen, was designed by Morris Norburg, Edmonton.



HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER

"The Memorial Clock Tower is a monument dedicated to local heroes who gave their lives to defend our country in the First World War. It was rededicated on July 30, 1947 to also honour those who died in the Second World War. On September 19, 1921 the Walter Munson Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire approached Town Council asking for permission to erect some kind of memorial at the intersection of present day main street and second avenue. On April 30, 1922, a delegation of I.O.D.E. members approached the Council with

their plan for the memorial - Council then endorsed their action and commended their efforts in the quest for a suitable memorial to the soldiers of Town who fell in the war.

There are 39 names engraved on a plaque in memory of the soldiers who perished in the First World War (1914-1918), and 28 names of those who died in the Second World War (1939-1945). Some of those very soldiers had brought rocks in for the construction of the clock and are now forever remembered for their sacrifice".

Wainwright Star Chronicle



Submitted photo
The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Walter Munson chapter were on the platform at the time of the unveiling of the memorial clock tower. They are (back row, from left) Mrs. A.E. Laird, G. Gregson, Mrs. McDougall, Mrs. L. Bean, Mrs. G. Hudson, Mrs. Church, Mrs. Smith, (front row, from left) Mrs. J. Welch, Mrs. P.D. Laird (Sr.), Mrs. C.B. Turner, Mrs. H.Y. Pawling and Mrs. A. Lasell. Also young Walter Huntingford (centre).

HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER

"The valiant and untiring efforts which have been put forth by the Walter Musson chapter of the I.O.D.E. in their endeavors to erect and dedicate a suitable and fitting memorial to those of this district who, during the throes of the Great War, paid the highest price possible for their belief in the cause of truth and right, were brought to a successful conclusion on Sunday afternoon last, when the Memorial Clock Tower and the bronze tablet thereon were dedicated to the memory of those heroes who went from our midst "and came not again".

It had been the original intention that the memorial should be of such a nature that it would stand as a reminder of the heroic deeds of those whose names are inscribed upon its roll of honor as well as a monument to the efforts put forth by every one of the many who went from Wainwright to "do his (or her) bit", and we believe it stand unique in the whole British Empire in its simple grandeur and adequate usefulness.

The monument which has cost in the neighborhood of \$3500.00 is situated at the main interesection of the town at the corner of Main street and Second avenue, and occupies a commanding position; its four clock dials which are electrically governed from a master clock in the Town Hall, being discernable from practically all over town.

Built of Native Stone - The shaft is built of Alberta native granite, gathered all within the precincts of the boys' own homes, and although not ornate its simple Roman lines raised from a double platform of concrete held the clock some 35 feet above the roadway; the bronze tablet which is the work of Major Norbury of Edmonton, himself a veteran of the Great War also, being set into the masonry on its south face.

For the unveiling ceremony on Sunday, sufficient area to give accomodation to the public had been roped off, and into this space upwards of one thousand spectators including the War veterans and the school children, crowded to do honor to our fallen heroes.

At the base of the tower a platform reserved space for members of the I.O.D.E., the Mayor and Council, and the Hon. Senator Major Gen.W.A. Griesbach who performed the actual unveiling of the tablet and others."

"War Memorial Clock Tower was unveiled Sunday - Wainwright Star Chronicle" 16 September 1925.





1918



1925



1926



1928



1929



1930



1931

G.H.T. HOTEL MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER



1937

MEMORIAL CLOCK AND HOTEL WAINWRIGHT



1956



1973

Winnie Alexander had this to say about the town clock:

I wasn't very old, probably about 9 years old, and I was going to school in Wainwright, probably in grade four. Some people came from the town to the school in about 1922 and they said they were going to build a memorial to the soldiers that died in the 1914-1918 war. They were going to build a clock, and they told us that we could be a part of it if we would all bring a stone up - they designated a place - it was on main street. Those stones would be used to build the clock.

I wanted to do my part, so my brother Gerald and I went out to where the golf course is today, and we went looking for rocks. We had a little wagon and we finally found two that we thought were alright. The two of us could lift them. My brother was a year and a half younger than me. We hauled them all the way up to main street, and there was a pile so we dumped them. We thought we had a part in it. I never knew if they used those rocks or not but recently I learned that they did. A friend of mine told me that Jessie Forster took a rock down there and wrote her name on it. When she came back years later there it was, so they must have used some of them.

The clock got built, and when the 2nd World War came, they used the same monument for both wars. A lot of the kids that brought those rocks down were in the second world war, and some of them lost their lives - it was their turn then.

Editor's note:

Winnie's brother Gerald, who had brought a rock for the memorial clock, lost his life in the second World War and now has his name engraved in the plaque that was unveiled July 30, 1947.

"Urban Stories - Erika Foley, Wainwright Star Chronicle" 2005



RECOLLECTIONS

Recollections of the Memorial Clock Tower by Edwina (Cork) Harris and Eleanor (Cork) Mack.

The following are parts of letters written in Nov. 1980 and Feb. 1981 to long time Wainwright resident Herb Snyder by Edwina ⁽¹⁾ and Eleanor ⁽²⁾, granddaughters of Mrs. A. Lasell, Regent of the Walter Musson Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire in 1925, and daughter of Earl Cork. C.N.R. watch-inspector and Mayor of Wainwright in 1925.

"I was 13 years old when the memorial clock tower was dedicated on September 13, 1925, so I can remember a lot of things about it. The idea of the clock tower originated in the minds of those dedicated women of the I.O.D.E. Grandma was Regent at the time, so I remember when the

idea was born. They wanted to build a war memorial - it had to be a project everyone could take part in - something from the land the men had left - something useful, that future generations could look up to.

"... it had to be a project everyone could take part in - something from the land the men had left - something useful, that future generations could look up to. Today, you can see what they co-operatively came up with. No one person can take the credit, I am sure,"

- Edwina (Cork) Harris

Today, you can see what they co-operatively came up with. No one person can take the credit, I am sure.

The organization worked in many ways to raise the money. Every Saturday the women put on a dinner in the Oddfellows Hall and everyone that brought in a load of rocks sat down to a delicious home cooked meal. They did

this, until the day Mr. Bailey, [the clock builder] said "No more." As it was a Saturday (no school) and lots of good smelling food around, the ladies found recruits in my age group to run errands. I remember what

good cooks they had, especially Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Turner. Garden vegetables, meat and fowl were generously donated by the townspeople and farmers that had them to spare. Even very young children gathered stones

and brought them in. Of course, Mr. Bailey could not use much of these, but the spirit of co-operation was there. How I wish we had more of that spirit today. Wainwright should be proud of their memorial and it's original - I know I am.

The clock itself was purchased from Gillett & Johnston, Croydon, England through my Dad

at cost. He installed the master clock in the town hall and maintained it for many years as his contribution to the memorial. It had a few bad times, as in the 1929 fire, but over all it survived healthy and strong and Dad enjoyed looking after it.

The bronze table, set in the masonry, was designed by Major Norburg, of Edmonton. F. Bailey was the builder; he was hesitant about taking on the job but was finally persuaded by the ladies. I have faint recollection of seeing blueprints of the "Roman" tower but I can't recall who designed it - it could have been Mr. Bailey - I'm not sure. According to the *Star*, the entire monument cost \$3,500.

The dedication day was a "big" day for Wainwright - all the school children were present, everyone was there - except me. I had scarlet

fever. It was with mixed emotions I listened to the proceedings from my bedroom. I'm not sure if it really was a warm day or my fever, but I know I had the window wide

"About the monument - I too remember the blueprint. It was spread out all crackling new and the grown ups were very excited,"

- Eleanor (Cork) Mack

open and could hear the band and the applause quite clearly. I think now, my illness was a "fortunate misfortune," as the girl who took my place [representing her school class in placing flowers at the clock's base], was far more deserving of the honor. Bessie Bowerman had lost her father in the war. They told me afterwards that my school chum did the job beautifully.

As you know we lost everything in the fire of 1929 but my dad had sent pictures, program and a copy of the *Star* to his

mother. All these have come back to me so I am sending them to you. Dad took the picture of the active I.O.D.E. members at the ceremony and their names are on the back.

The *Star* is dated September 1, 1925 has all the speeches front page only, but a fairly complete report and readable. I hope this will be of help to you, it is one of the pleasures of life to be able to

share pleasant memories with others." ⁽¹⁾

"About the monument - I too remember the blueprint. It was spread out all crackling new and the grown ups were very excited - in our back shop. I recall the stone mason from the old country was reluctant to build the tower as he had a farm north of town and couldn't or didn't want to leave it for so long as it took to build the tower. They had to convince him. I believe it was Frank Bailey, but Edwina would remember more clearly than I." ⁽²⁾

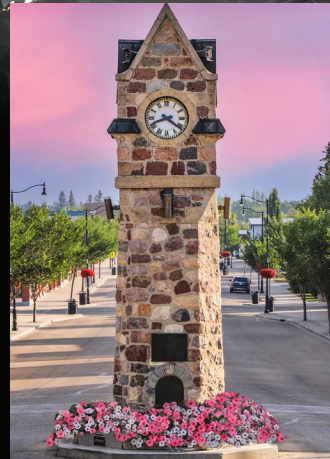


Remembrance Day ceremonies are held at the Cenotaph every year - as are other events honouring our military including the Rolling Barrage which raises money for first responders and veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Many visitors who pass through Wainwright (including military personnel) pause for a photo with our Memorial Clock Tower.

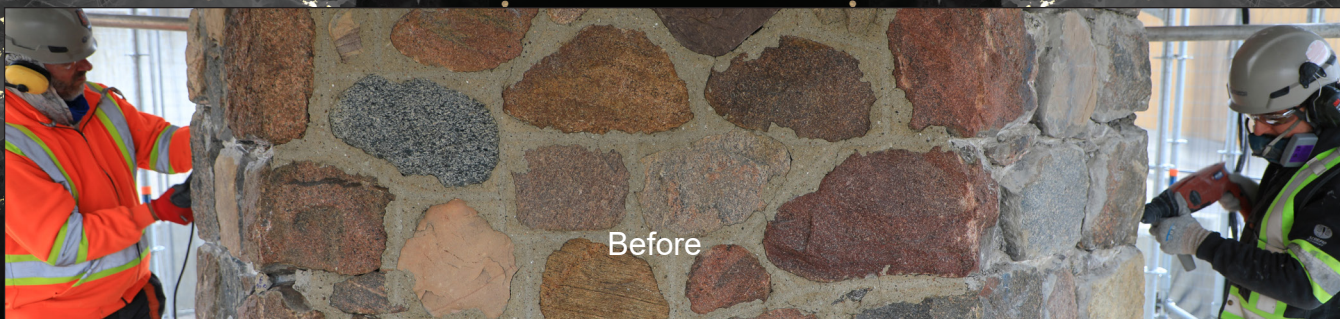


2015 - 2024



RESTORATION MAY 2025





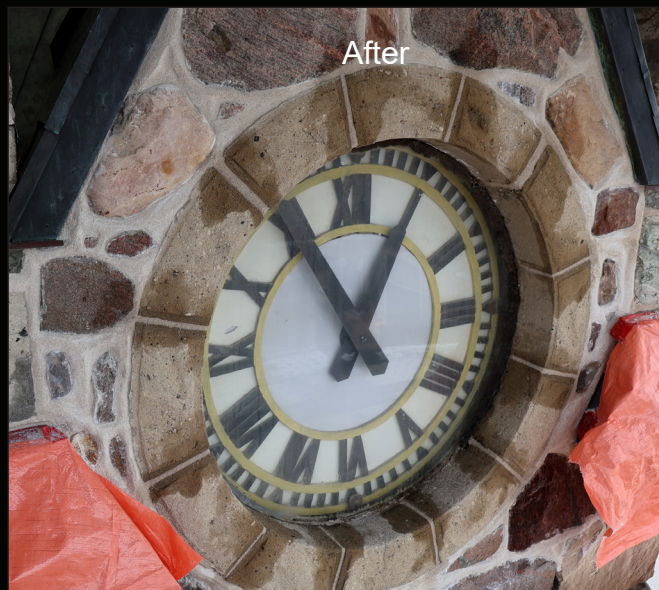
Before



After



Before



After

Before

LEST
WE
FORGET



After

LEST
WE
FORGET



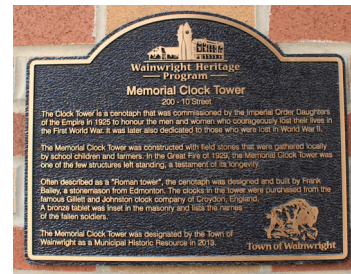




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- Battle River Electric



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