

8. PEMBINA GARDENS EST. 1955

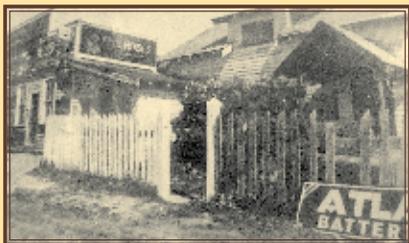
In 1954, Dave Chow took over the Wild Cat Café, across from the original Blocks Store location, before he and his wife purchased two lots at the west end of the Drayton Valley Hotel block. In 1955, they built the Pembina Gardens Restaurant with residential units above. The business was sold in 1960 when it became the Club Café, then the Jade Café until about 1965. The Chow's then opened a department store in what became the Uptown Laundry. Dave's Café opened in 1968 and the entire Chow family worked together serving both Western and Canadian-Chinese cuisine until closing in 1976.



9. DRAKE HOUSE EST. 1907

William and Dora Drake settled in the Powerhouse area in 1907, operating the post office and a grocery store out of their two room cabin home. They built their new home on the NW corner of 50 St and 50 Ave in 1930, with a post office and general store in their yard. Mr. Drake was Postmaster and Justice of the Peace.

The house was moved to 49th Street in 1955 and is now a private residence.



10. BLOCKS STORE EST. 1945



Originally Ganske's Store, it was located on the land where the current Life Church stands and was to become a major and enduring grocery business in the area. In 1945 it was purchased by Bill and Dick Block to become the Blocks Bros Store until the store was sold to the Hamdon's in 1966. Since then it underwent further re-developments including a new store by its original location in 1967 and then a major move as the anchor store of the new Derrick Mall development in 1978. The grocery business was then sold to become Extra Foods, and then the current Independent Foods store.

*This project was made possible
with the support of;*



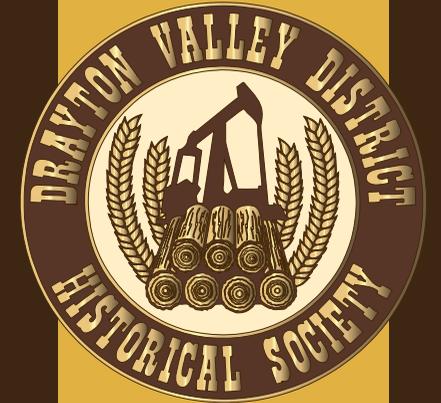
Drayton Valley is located in the central west area of Alberta, where Hwy 22 makes a sharp turn. The town-site is above the North Saskatchewan River where rolling valleys meet prairies and parkland. Although settlers, primarily lumbermen, arrived in the area around 1910, Drayton Valley is considered a young community by many standards, its growth largely thanks to the discovery of oil in 1953. The Historical Walking Tour is just one of the ways we proudly celebrate our heritage.

Special plaques have been created since 2013 to commemorate significant historic locations and are the focus of this project initiated by the local Communities in Bloom. Seven locations are recognized with plaques to date. The acknowledgement of more is hoped for in the future.

As you stroll along the sidewalks of our downtown area, let your imagination take you to a time where gas was just 20¢ a gallon, where the average home was under \$20K (although many of the roughnecks lived in skid shacks) and the mud was considered stickier than anywhere else! Enjoy!



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 269* | 6. Cardium Theatre |
| 2. Centennial Arena | 7. Drayton Valley Hotel |
| 3. RCMP Detachment* | 8. Pembina Gardens |
| 4. Drayton Valley Bakery | 9. Drake House |
| 5. White Bull Cafe* | 10. Blocks Store |
- * = no plaque at this time



Drayton Valley
Historical
Downtown
(Est. 1957)

WALKING
TOUR



1. ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 269

EST. 1957



Built on land donated by the Mackenzie family, the existing card room was the original Legion hall, while drinks were served in the lounge located in the basement (which is now used as storage space).

The Wall of Honor and mural were unveiled in 2000 and restored in 2016. They recognize many of our local heroes who served in the First World War or other conflicts.



Across the street, the Cenotaph Park (est. 1974) displays military monuments from every sector of the Canadian Armed Forces – land, sea and air. The original town cemetery is evident behind this area while the current cemetery is on the east side of town.

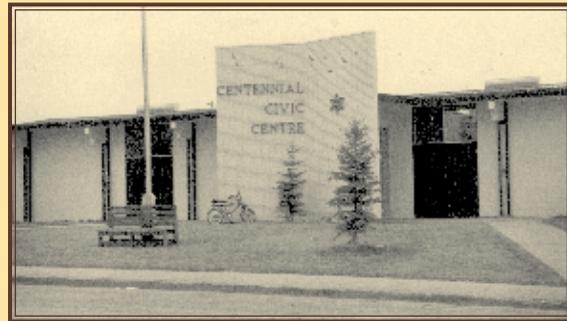
The Legion has seen four expansions over the years and continues to be an important part of the community for the services it provides, including its use as one of the community halls.

2. CENTENNIAL ARENA

EST. 1966

The arena was a welcome addition to the town, built in time to be recognized as a Canada Centennial project. It provided a place for many activities including hockey, 4-H shows, the circus and so much more. The curling rink was located just across the street.

In 1989, upon completion of the Omniplex facility, renovations allowed this space to become the current Civic Centre, housing the Town administration offices, library and fire hall.



3. RCMP DETACHMENT

EST. 1955

This building on 51st Avenue housed the first RCMP Detachment when they set up offices in town in 1955. Prior to that, policing was provided from Entwistle, 30 miles away. A newer, more spacious office lead to their moving out of the downtown core in 1985.

The Chamber of Commerce used this space as their office location for a number of years.



4. DRAYTON VALLEY BAKERY

EST. 1955



Same name, same location over 60 years later! Still a busy and popular place with great donuts and more.

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

5. WHITE BULL CAFE

EST. 1956

Initially a bakery, the White Bull Cafe quickly became a local favourite for breakfast and lunch. A showcase of fresh baked goods and homemade pies enticed customers as they stepped inside the small diner style restaurant.

Although the original location beside the Cardium Theatre did not survive, the business certainly has. The Bull Burger and old fashioned milk shakes remain customer favourites!



6. CARDIUM THEATRE

EST. 1957

The Cardium Theatre was the hub of movie entertainment in the early days before cable TV. In the early days, it was even used as the courthouse occasionally.

Since 2013, the building has been serving the community as the Eleanor Pickup Arts Centre (EPAC) – the main venue for many performances including brilliant musical and theatre productions and our annual Performing Arts Festival.



7. DRAYTON VALLEY HOTEL

EST. 1955

The “old” hotel was and still is the largest building in the downtown core, and was the centre of community social activity.

DV Tribune, Feb 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 other five 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...”

