

RAYMOND IN HISTORIC CONTEXT



DONALD LUXTON
AND ASSOCIATES INC



Municipal Heritage
Partnership Program





Canada Day at the Raymond Stampede, 1978
Courtesy of Raymond & District Historical Society

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance and direction provided by the Historic Resource Committee members: Cathy Needham, Scott Barton, Jack Stone, Keith Hancock, Ross Jensen, Richard Kiddle, Stewart Foss, and MHPP Municipal Heritage Services Officer, Michael Thome.

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1.0 Introduction

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The development of a Historic Context document and Thematic Framework for the Town of Raymond together provide a framework for current and future community planning. This document is an integral planning tool that identifies the town's broad patterns of historic development, and promotes a sense of identity and stewardship. Development of this Historic Context was achieved through a rigorous review of existing historic documentation, oral histories, and community stories, as well as analyzing other indicators of the area's historic evolution. The Historic Context document identifies and explores the major themes of Raymond's history. These themes were developed in consultation with the community, the Historical Resource Committee, and Town staff. The historic themes that emerged are those that represent the development of Raymond up to the present day, and continuing into the future.



Town of Raymond's Historical Resource Committee for 2014 (L-R): Councillor Cathy Needham, Scott Barton, Keith Hancock, Stewart Foss, Jack Stone, Richard Kiddle, and Ross Jensen
Donald Luxton & Associates, April 2014

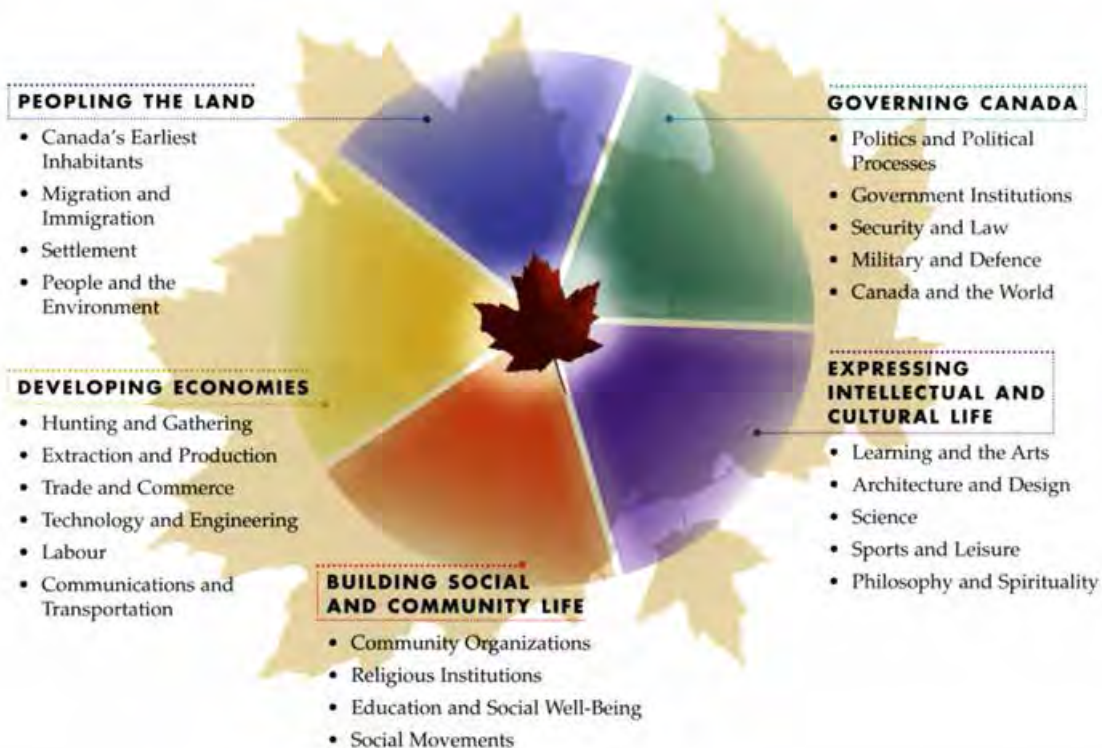
2.0 Thematic Framework

2.1 NATIONAL THEMES

A Thematic Framework and Historic Context document were developed for the Town of Raymond. These two tools guide the writing of Statements of Significance, the national standard for documenting historic sites. The objective of the project was to identify major factors and processes that shaped the built environment of the town throughout its history. This important document was developed through community-guided research and vetted through the Historical Resource Committee and Town staff. The Thematic Framework outlines the major themes of development that has led to the breadth of historic resources visible in the community today. The Thematic Framework is based on the *Parks Canada National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan* and the *Alberta*

Thematic Framework (In Time and Place), which identify the major themes that influenced the history and heritage of Canada and Alberta, respectively. The Parks Canada System Plan is used as an over arching guide; each national theme is then broken down to the provincial level, and modified or added to in order to suit the local context. The Historic Context document expands on each of the themes outlined in the Thematic Framework. The document functions as a tool to further develop the heritage program in the Town of Raymond. Identifying sites that represent each theme and taking measures to evaluate and protect these historic resources, ensures the entire breadth of the community’s history is preserved.

The diagram below is the *Parks Canada National Historic Sites System Plan*.



NOTE: Sites listed in **bold** under the “Examples of Sites” column are already listed on the Alberta Register of Historic Places.

Canadian Theme	Canadian Sub-Theme(s)	Alberta Theme	Raymond Theme	Description	Examples of Sites
META-THEME			THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS	The founding of Raymond by Jesse Knight, and subsequent arrival of fellow Latter-day Saints to aid in the establishment and growth of the town permeates multiple Raymond themes and significantly shaped the town then, as it does today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layout of town • Businesses and institutional buildings associated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1.0 Peopling the Land	<i>Canada's Earliest Inhabitants</i>	<i>Aboriginal Life</i>	First Nations in Raymond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackfoot and Blood • Small presence on the local landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological sites
1.0 Peopling the Land	<i>Settlement</i> <i>Migration and Immigration</i> <i>People and the Environment</i>	<i>Urban Development</i>	Sugar City: Settling Raymond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails provided early access to the region • Town founded by Jesse Knight in 1901, and named after his son Raymond • Raymond's geographical positioning between Magrath and Stirling • Latter-day Saints moved to area for entrepreneurial opportunities and to aid in the construction of irrigation systems • Multi-generational connection to the town • Many Latter-day Saints' families had homes within the Town of Raymond, as well as farmsteads located outside town limits • Fertile soil, hospitable climate, and irrigation projects drew people to the Palliser Triangle area • Early presence of Japanese in community, and also later wave of Japanese immigrants from the west coast during and following the Second World War to work in the sugar beet fields • Post-Second World War influx of eastern Europeans • Mennonite presence within the town and Hutterite colonies nearby • Population demographics stable, with a large Latter-day Saints population presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails • Early homes • Multi-generational homes • Local sawmills & lumber yards • Knight/Hancock Residence • Knight/Hicken Residence

Canadian Theme	Canadian Sub-Theme(s)	Alberta Theme	Raymond Theme	Description	Examples of Sites
1.0 Peopling the Land	<i>Settlement</i>	<i>Urban Development</i>	<i>Growth of Raymond</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town's unique original layout comprising the Plat of the City of Zion plan overlaid with Haussmann's Paris Plan, which resulted in the latter's wide boulevards radiating out from a central point over the Plat of Zion's grid arrangement of streets and blocks • Town's layout eventually evolved to a standard grid pattern, with characteristics of the Paris Plan lost • Local geography influenced settlement – sloping land resulting in issues with differential water pressure • Temple Hill* prominent local landmark, previously situated within town boundaries • Later development of Frog Bottom area • Late establishment of lower area of town sewer system – relied first on septic system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layout of early village - irregular settlement lots juxtaposition to the current town grid • Early roads • Wide streets and sidewalks • Public works buildings
2.0 Developing Economies	<i>Extraction and Production</i>	<i>Agricultural Development</i>	<i>Little Sugar Beet on the Prairie: Ranching and Farming in Raymond</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-grass prairies provided early food source for cattle • Soil, climate, and development of significant irrigation systems resulted in an early highly productive agricultural economy of sugar beets, wheat, and hay • Climate and soils also resulted in highly productive household gardens within the town • Town residents also kept coops for rearing fowl • Railway provided a means of moving livestock and grain throughout southern Alberta • Presence of grain elevators and mill made Raymond a base for grain processing and shipping • Establishment of dairies • Establishment of Raymond and District Agricultural Society • Development of community-based large-scale canning facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockyards, feed lots, abattoirs • Grain elevators • Flour mills • Dairy • Railway sidings

Canadian Theme	Canadian Sub-Theme(s)	Alberta Theme	Raymond Theme	Description	Examples of Sites
2.0 Developing Economies	<i>Technology and Engineering</i>	<i>Agricultural Development</i>	<i>Engineering the Prairie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental conditions necessitated the development of irrigation systems to aid dryland farmers • Galt family first developers of an irrigation system in the Raymond area • The Church of Jesus Christ was contracted to build a primary canal from St. Mary River and lateral canals • Boosters promoted the agriculture productivity of irrigated land • Formation of Raymond Irrigation District (RID) • Alteration of irrigation system elements for hydro-electric power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites and landscapes associated with irrigation (i.e. canals, spillways, reservoirs, dikes, drops, chutes) • Corner Lake • Past irrigation canals that ran through the town, presently green strips serving as walking trails in the Raymond
2.0 Developing Economies	<i>Trade and Commerce</i>	<i>Urban Development</i>	<i>Commercial Development in Raymond</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent and self-supporting – Raymond developed a locally viable economy • Early businesses established to serve the first settlers • Early establishment of the Raymond Board of Trade • Development of commercial services and industries to meet the needs of the growing community • Japanese commercial businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banks • Groceries • Hardware shops • Farm equipment businesses • Hotels • Cafes and restaurants
2.0 Developing Economies	<i>Communications and Transportation</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Raymond Transportation and Communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local trails permitted early settlers to move across the landscape • Initially serviced by St. Mary's River Railway, before line was taken over by CPR in 1912 • Railway's presence increased the movement of people and goods in southern Alberta • Development of businesses associated with automobile travel • Greyhound bus service provided access to surrounding communities • Establishment of telegraph and later telephone lines and associated offices • Founding of multiple local newspapers including: <i>The Chronicle, The Raymond Rustler, The Raymond Leader, The Raymond Recorder</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remnants of early trails • Stables and liverys • Blacksmiths • CPR Railway • Train station • Early hotels/motels • Early gas stations and garages • Telegraph lines & office • Post office • Buildings associated with newspaper

Canadian Theme	Canadian Sub-Theme(s)	Alberta Theme	Raymond Theme	Description	Examples of Sites
3.0 Building Social and Community Life	<i>Community Organizations</i>	<i>Work and Leisure</i>	Community Groups & Commemoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early development of community groups focused on building community relationships and improving the quality of life of Raymond's inhabitants (i.e. Legion, Lions, Rotary, Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs, Scouts) • 4-H clubs (animal and mechanical focus) • Strong and enduring connection with war veterans and military service commemoration • Establishment of air cadets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community halls • Cenotaph • Legion Hall
3.0 Building Social and Community Life	<i>Religious Institutions</i>	<i>Spiritual Life</i>	Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The founding of Raymond and its permanency is forever linked to the Church of Jesus Christ and its congregation • Early establishment of Raymond's Buddhist Church • Later presence of Mennonite, Roman Catholic, Baptist, and United congregations • Establishment of groups to aid the community including: Relief Society, Catholic Women's League, United Women's League, Y.W.M.I.A., Y.M.M.I.A., Relief Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churches • Rectories • Cemeteries • The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Park Avenue Chapel • Raymond Buddhist Church
3.0 Building Social and Community Life	<i>Education and Social Well-Being</i>	<i>Education</i>	Education and Agricultural Training in Raymond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities related to teaching and education of children and adults • Early identification of educational needs in Raymond, with the first school constructed in 1903 • Early and ongoing expansion of the school system to meet the growing needs of the community • Development of the Alberta School of Agriculture • Later establishment of the Raymond Catholic Separate School, District No. 100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools

Canadian Theme	Canadian Sub-Theme(s)	Alberta Theme	Raymond Theme	Description	Examples of Sites
3.0 Building Social and Community Life	<i>Education and Social Well-Being</i>	<i>Health</i>	Raymond Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early health care services were performed by nurses, midwives, and traveling doctors, dentists • Development of local medical practices and clinics • Establishment of the Raymond Care Centre • Opening of the Raymond Municipal Hospital in 1945 • Establishment of the Raymond Hospital Auxiliary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug stores • Pharmacy • Maternity Home • Doctor's offices • Nursing Home • Health clinics • Hospitals
4.0 Governing Canada	<i>Politics and Political Process</i> <i>Security and Law</i>	<i>Government and Law Enforcement</i> XXX	Governance and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall and development of Town Constables • Long-standing volunteer fire department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early fire halls • Town facilities • Sites associated with early law and policing
5.0 Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life	<i>Sports and Leisure</i>	<i>Sports</i>	Stampede, Judo & Rivalries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation activities that promoted community involvement and interaction • Stampede was established the year after the town was founded in 1901 – first stampede in Canada • First Judo club in western Canada • Wide variety of local sports (e.g. roller skating, hockey, baseball, softball, football, basketball, boxing, golf, track & field, rugby, motocross) • Strong rivalries with neighbouring communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice rinks • Sports fields • Public parks • Swimming pools • Parks • Landscapes linked with the Raymond Stampede
5.0 Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life	<i>Learning and the Arts</i>	<i>Intellectual Life</i>	Raymond and the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and enduring connection with the arts, which resulted in the establishment of a range of clubs, groups, and organizations focused on musical, theatrical, and artistic pursuits and associated venues • Long-standing community historical society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatres • Galleries • Library • Museum • Exhibit spaces • Dance halls (open air)

Canadian Theme	Canadian Sub-Theme(s)	Alberta Theme	Raymond Theme	Description	Examples of Sites
5.0 Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life	<i>Philosophy and Spirituality</i>	<i>The Face of Alberta</i>	<i>“Welcome Home”: A Connected Community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raymond’s deeply instilled sense of community extends across social, economic, and geographical boundaries • Raymond’s presence in communities around the world is due to a strong desire to contribute to communities beyond their own • Multi-generational connection with the town ensures that returning residents always feel “at home” in the community. • Architectural styles influenced by the community’s inhabitants, available materials, and local industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town’s wide streets permit highly-attended community celebrations • Diverse residential architectural style and scale reflective of cultural and economic influences

3.0 Historic Context



The above images are portions of Raymond's Fire Insurance Plan, created in 1920, and revised in 1925 by the Western Canada Insurance Underwriters' Association in Winnipeg

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Town of Raymond is a small community situated on the vast expansive prairie of southern Alberta. Founded by prominent member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jesse Knight in 1901, Raymond has a rich and complex history deeply rooted with the Church of Jesus Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ significantly influenced the planning and development of the town, which mirrored other Church of Jesus Christ communities in southern Alberta. The area's history spans thousands of years encompassing First Nations groups in the region and later early settlers, who harnessed the agricultural potential of the open rugged prairie through the development of large-scale irrigation projects. The community's positioning along the railway, the Church of Jesus Christ's presence, available arable land, extensive irrigation systems, and the early establishment of the Knight Sugar Factory in 1903, made Raymond highly attractive to immigrants from the United States, Europe, and neighboring provinces. These factors have contributed to Raymond's diverse range of historic resources and reflect its unique and dynamic history that has unfolded over time.

3.2 META-THEME

Throughout Raymond's history, one significant theme has presided over the community, contributing to its growth, development, and permanency - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This over-arching meta-theme permeated the development of Raymond from its founding in 1901 through to the present day. The Church of Jesus Christ played a pivotal role in Raymond's early history, influencing aspects such as town planning, immigration, commercial development, religious groups, community associations, health, and education. This unique and important meta-theme continues to shape aspects of the community to the present day.

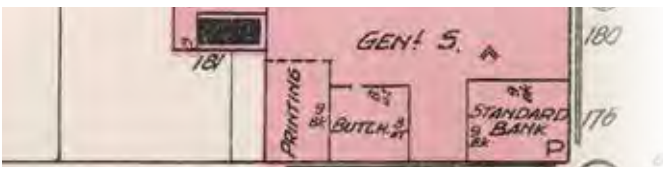


Sign providing a short history of the Town of Raymond
Alison Jackson, May 1974
Calgary Public Library AJ_1160



Municipal Heritage Partnership Program





3.3 FIRST NATIONS IN RAYMOND

The landscape that would become the Town of Raymond has a long and rich history, stretching back more than 10,000 years. The Town of Raymond and surrounding land is situated at what was the southern extent of an ice-free corridor that extended from present day Alaska to northern Montana. The corridor provided a route for Paleo-Indian cultures to migrate across the Bering Land Bridge into North America over 125,000 years ago. These early peoples spread out across the landscape of what would become southern Alberta, practicing a highly nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle, which left minimal evidence on the landscape.

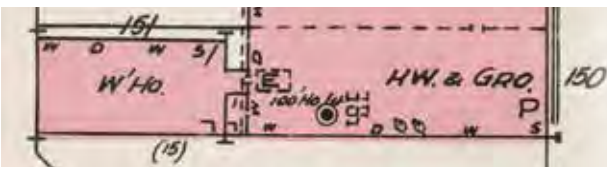
Southern Alberta was traditionally occupied by the Algonquian speaking Blackfoot, who were composed of three tribes: the Blood, the Peigan, and the Siksika. At their peak, the Blackfoot controlled land spanning from the North Saskatchewan River to the Missouri River, covering much of present day Montana and Alberta. The vast majority of the Blackfoot territory was composed of short-grass plains

with the foothills of the Rocky Mountain situated at the western edge of their territory. The three tribes shared the same language and practices, but remained separate political entities. The Blackfoot are intrinsically linked with the buffalo, once abundant throughout the plains, which supplied them with food, materials, and goods for trade with surrounding First Nations.

At the time of contact, the Blood tribe was active on the landscape surrounding Raymond. Blackfoot communities were organized into nomadic camps or bands made up of both families and non-relatives. Their economy was based on a nomadic seasonal round focused on plant procurement and bison hunting. In the summer, bands would hunt bison on the plains. Alternatively, wintering areas were usually in wooded river valleys where they were protected from the weather and where wildlife were likely to congregate. Their nomadic lifestyle left minimal remnants on the land, as is evident in the absence of archaeological sites in Raymond; however, the trails used by First Nations span the landscape, including that which would become the Town of Raymond, like a patchwork quilt and are a residual physical representation of these early peoples' presence in the region.



19th century Blackfoot encampment in southern Alberta
Glenbow Archives NA-5217-1



Detail of a map showing irrigated lands of the Canadian Northwest Irrigation Company
 The Matthews Northrup Works, circa 1910
 Glenbow Library G3502 S727 1910 M438

Jesus Christ leader, Charles Ora Card, also known as “Canada’s Brigham Young,” travelled to Canada to search out available and arable land to establish settlements after receiving counsel from Church of Jesus Christ President John Taylor, Brigham Young’s successor. Card travelled throughout southeastern British Columbia and southern Alberta before settling near Lee’s Creek, on land that would become the future town of Cardston. Cardston would later become the Alberta Stake of Zion (1895-1902) and play an instrumental role in the establishment of many southern Alberta Latter-day Saints communities and the development of the Church of Jesus Christ in Canada.

In 1901, Utah mining magnate Jesse Knight, on hearing about the entrepreneurial potential

of the southern Alberta, sent his sons, Oscar Raymond and John Williams, to assess the viability of the land and purchase acreage. At the time, the Dominion of Canada and Sir Alexander Galt, who was instrumental in establishing the railway in the area, owned most of the land in southern Alberta. Galt, having not attracted the anticipated interest in the land by large-scale ranching companies, began selling land to newly arriving settlers. Jesse Knight initially purchased 34,500 acres from Galt in 1899, upon which Knight’s Bar K2 ranch, named after his two sons, was established. Shortly thereafter, Knight purchased a further 250,000 acres of land to the east of his original purchase from Galt’s Canadian North West Irrigation Company (CNWIC). This land would include the future location of the Town of Raymond. As a component of the land deal, Knight was required to allocate a portion of the land for the construction of a sugar factory. On August 11, 1901, Apostle John W. Taylor, Jesse Knight, and other Church of Jesus Christ leaders selected the location of the sugar factory and townsite. Named after Jesse Knight’s eldest son Oscar Raymond, the town was positioned south of the St. Mary’s River Railway branch line.

A significant migration of Latter-day Saints to southeastern Alberta began to occur at the end of 1901. Previous migrations of Latter-day Saints had been initiated by the Church of Jesus Christ; however, this migration was the result of the economic opportunities proposed by Jesse Knight through the construction and operation of his sugar factory. The availability of land for purchase, factory and farming jobs, and commercial development opportunities were attractive qualities that drew settlers to Raymond.

The arrival of Latter-day Saints, as well as other immigrant groups to the community, resulted in a boom in population and development in the early 1900s. As a result of the influx of people, the town underwent a rapid building period

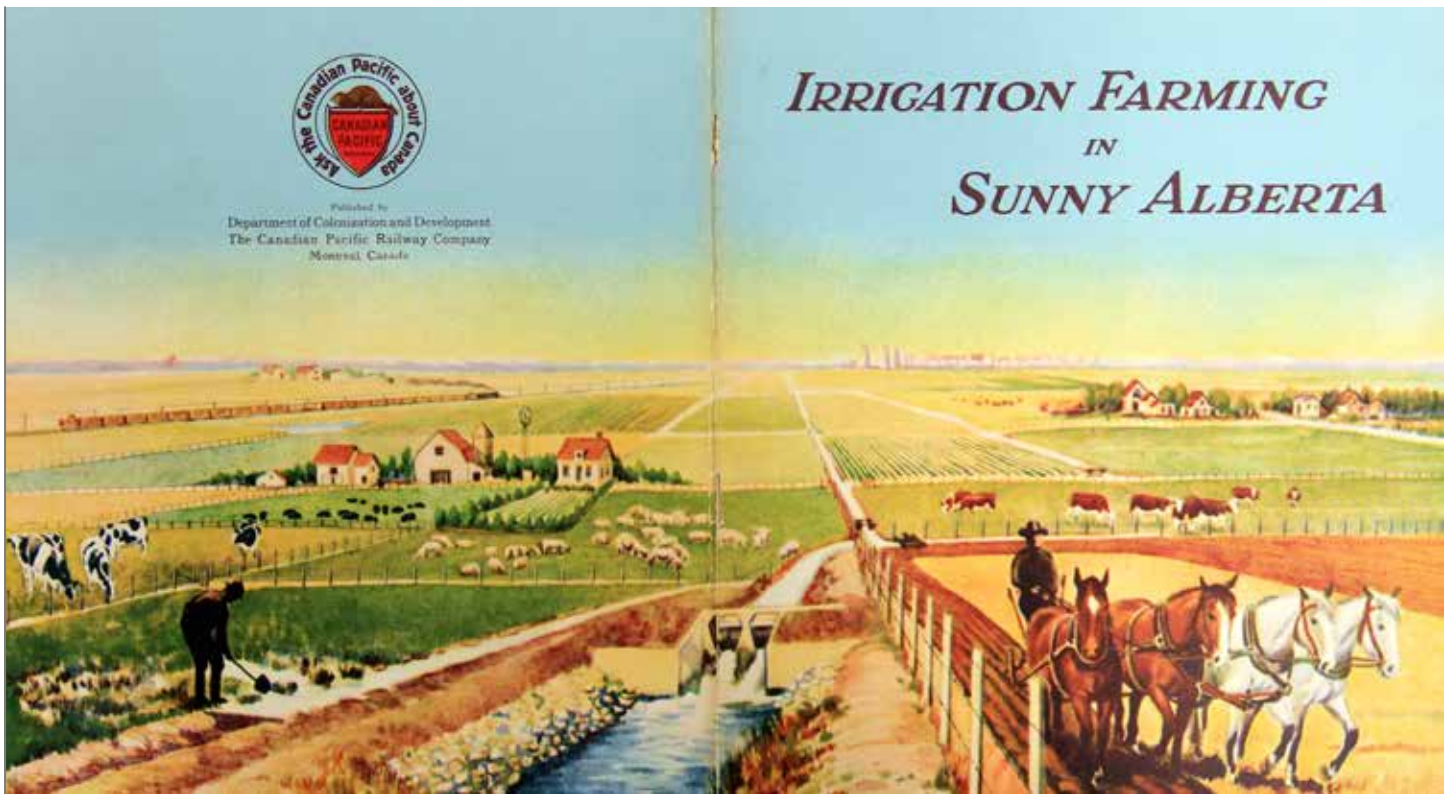


with the construction of numerous homes, stores, and restaurants. By 1904, the population had reached over 1600, and the town continued to grow throughout the first decade of the 20th century.

Hutterites and Mennonites

In the 1920s, boosters continued to promote the available land and agricultural potential of southern Alberta throughout Europe and North America. It was during this period that the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) instituted a program to bring Mennonites and Hutterites to the area to expand the farming practices of the region. Hutterites and Mennonites are both of the Protestant Anabaptist Church that formed as a result of the Peasant Revolt in the 1500s in Switzerland. Hutterites, a communal branch of the religion, lived in 'a community

of goods' rather than become integrated into a non-practicing community. The first Hutterites to arrive in southern Alberta migrated to the area in 1914 from South Dakota. Their arrival was a direct result of the outbreak of the First World War and a rise in anti-German sentiment in the United States. As German-speaking pacifists, Hutterites became targets due to their abstention to military service following the creation of conscription measures in the United States. Rising theft of property, violence, and incarceration of Hutterites in the United States pushed them to leave the country for a more tolerant setting. As a result, southern Alberta witnessed the establishment of ten Hutterite colonies by 1918. They established one colony near Raymond, Milford (1914), and a further three colonies in subsequent years including Wolf Creek (1931), OK (1934), and East



Front and back cover of a promotional booklet published by the Canadian Pacific Railway to promote settlement and farming in southern Alberta
Irrigation Farming in Sunny Alberta. Montreal, QC: Department of Colonization and Development, The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, 1925





Raymond (1996). Their presence in Alberta was not without controversy as many returning First World War soldiers objected to them buying large tracts of prime farmland and their practice lack of interest in naturalization.

Mennonites presence in the region predates the Hutterites with settlement beginning in 1888. The Hofer family, formerly of Raley, Alberta, settled eight kilometres east of Raymond and established a farmstead and encouraged the migration and settlement of additional Mennonites throughout the first decades of the 20th century, a number of whom choose to settle in the town itself. Local Hutterite and Mennonite communities continue to maintain a strong presence in the community, contributing to its social and economic fabric.

European Immigrants

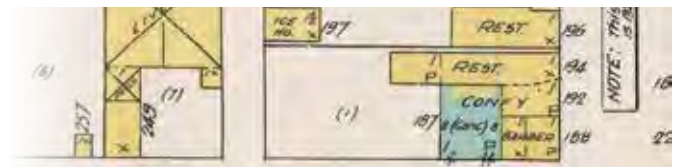
Additional immigrant groups would settle in Raymond, and throughout Alberta, in the first decades of the 20th century; being pulled to the area by Boosters and pushed to the region through displacement following the First World War. Employment opportunities and the potential to purchase land of their own attracted many new European settlers to Raymond. One such group were Hungarian immigrants leaving Europe following the First World War. By 1931, over 500 Hungarians were documented to be living in Raymond and the surrounding area. Following the Second World War, a second wave of Hungarian immigrants arrived in southern Alberta and once again in the 1950s, following the establishment of a Communist government in their homeland. The arrival of immigrants to the Town of Raymond diversified the socio-cultural composition of the community, with many groups establishing cultural-based clubs and businesses specializing in commodities of their homeland.

Japanese

One of the largest and most enduring immigrant groups to settle in Raymond were the Japanese. Young men comprised the first

Japanese immigrants to move to the town, drawn by the prospect of jobs associated with the construction and operation of the Knight Sugar Factory. Ichiro Hayakawa was hired by Knight to recruit labour workers to break land for the factory in early 1903, which resulted in an influx of Japanese to the community in the first years of the 20th century. Once the factory was constructed, this work labour force worked in the sugar beet fields as well as the factory. The later internment of Japanese during the Second World War resulted in a second wave of Japanese immigrants to the area as they were relocated from the west coast to inland internment camps starting in January 1942. Labour shortages associated with the war effort resulted in the establishment of work programs to aid local farmers. This practice occurred with Raymond's sugar beet farms. Following the war, many previously interned Japanese families chose to permanently remain in Raymond. Early families typically rented property until enough funds could be secured to purchase the property outright. Unlike other towns, Raymond's Japanese community did not establish an enclave in the community but were present throughout. This noteworthy early Raymond immigrant population shaped the community through the establishment of numerous commercial businesses to serve locals as well as themselves, and through the purchase and renovation of Raymond's first school to a Buddhist Church. The Japanese population has waned over recent decades with residents relocating to Lethbridge.

Presently, the Town of Raymond continues to maintain a strong Latter-day Saints community. Many families have resided in the town for generations, with residences often staying in a family for multiple generations - creating a deep and enduring connection with the town. Raymond's demographics are unique to other similar-sized communities with a young population that has lead to a vibrant, active community.



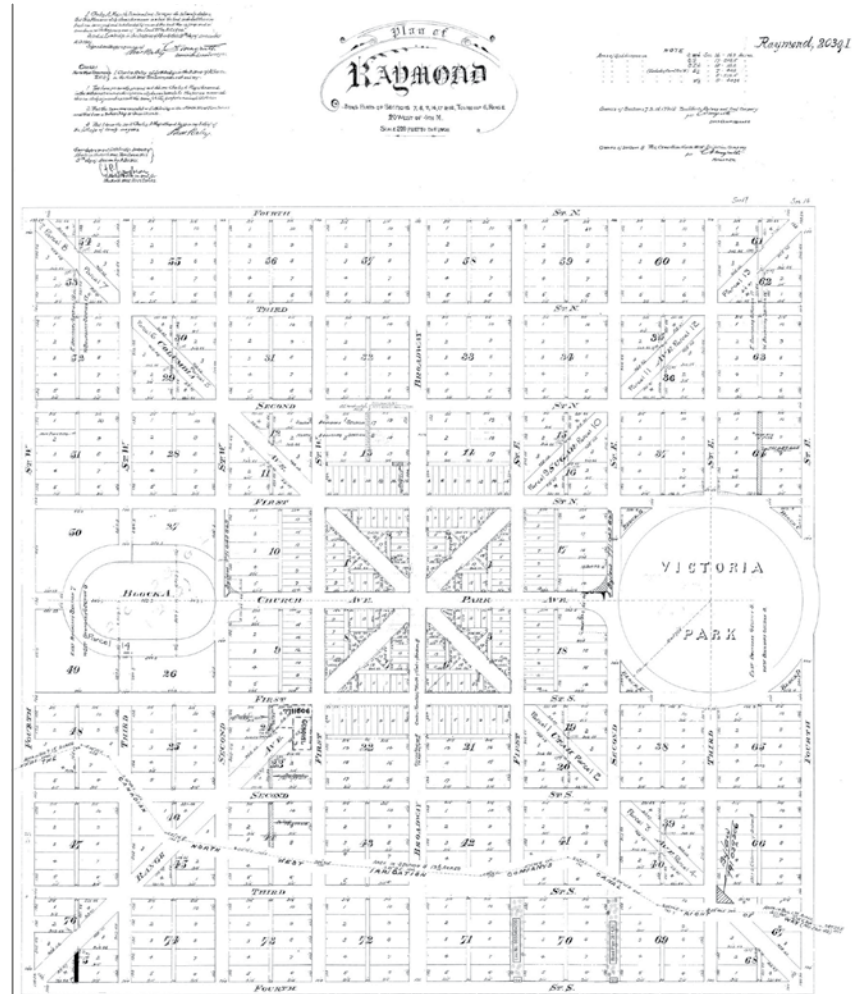
3.5 GROWTH OF RAYMOND

Raymond’s inception and growth are intrinsically linked with the establishment of the Knight Sugar Factory, the Church of Jesus Christ, railway, and the geography of the region. As the population grew and commercial ventures were established in the town to serve the needs of the residents, the town grew beyond its initial expectations. Raymond’s climate, commercial growth, and positioning in southern Alberta formed a solid foundation and high quality of life which continues to attract families and businesses to the community.

In the town’s early development, Raymond’s placement along Sir Alexander Galt’s Alberta Railway & Coal Company’s, St. Mary’s River Railway branch line provided connection with the nearby communities of Magrath, Stirling, Cardston, and Kimball. Constructed in 1901, the Knight Sugar Factory’s positioning adjacent to the railway, just outside the town’s limits, permitted the ease of movement of goods and became the primary driver for the establishment of the town, which was situated to the south of the factory. On August 11, 1901, the townsite was dedicated by President Charles Ora Card of the Alberta Stake. Unlike other towns which typically developed around the railway line, Raymond was positioned to the south of the railway, placing this key development driver on its periphery. On December 8, 1901, Charles A. Magrath, Dominion Land Surveyor, submitted a plan for the Town of Raymond using the “Plat of the City of Zion,” a customary layout for Church of Jesus Christ settlements. This plan was overlain with Georges-Eugene Haussmann’s “Paris Plan.” Haussmann was engaged by Emperor Napoleon III to undertake a massive program which saw the redevelopment of Paris beginning in the mid-19th century. A key aspect of his work was the configuration of wide boulevards radiating from a central point. Raymond’s initial layout using two plans was highly distinct in comparison with other communities in southern Alberta. Remnant shadows of the “Paris Plan’s” boulevards are

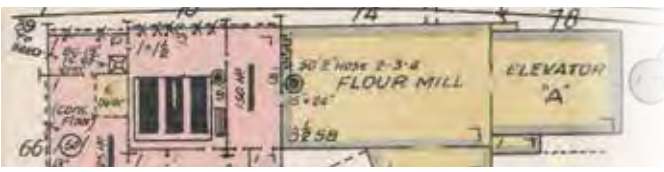
evident in early aerial images of the town and the extant orientation of several buildings.

The “Plat of the City of Zion” plan was established in 1833 as a construct of Joseph Smith. This distinctive plan became the model for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints settlements. The plan measured approximately 2.6 square kilometres and contained 49 square blocks of 10 acres each. The plan stipulated specific parameters including: streets to be 132’ wide with 20’ sidewalks; blocks to be 660’ on each side; and



Survey plan for the townsite of Raymond, subdivided by Charles A. Magrath in 1901. Elements of the Plat of the City of Zion (square blocks) and Haussmann’s Paris Plan (radiating roads) are evident in Magrath’s plan for Raymond
Service Alberta Plan 20391





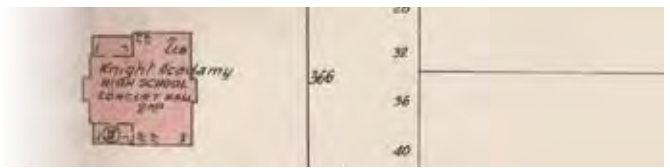
a centerline of blocks running east-west that are 1.5 times the size of the surrounding blocks. The three central blocks, running east-west, were reserved for public buildings and recreational space with residential blocks arranged in a grid-pattern around these blocks. The arrangement of the residential blocks was unique in that they were laid out in a manner that permitted no two building's front façades to face one another. The intent was to increase sunlight, air circulation, and privacy. The plan purported self-sufficiency and married rural and urban amenities. In 1833, Frederick G. Williams revised the original "Plat of the City of Zion" plan. His revisions included: increasing the overall footprint 1.5 times; eliminating one of the three central blocks; changing the shape of the central block to square; reducing the street width to 82'; and creating smaller residential lots – all in effort to adjust for the growing Latter-day Saints population. The "Plat of the City of Zion" plan is evident in Raymond's wide streets and sidewalks, placement of public institutions, and siting of homes. Similar to many earlier prairie communities, fire substantially damaged the downtown commercial core in 1926. The extant buildings of Raymond's main street are the result of the post-fire rebuild, and were built to a grander scale, more reflective of a growing community.

As the population of the town continued to grow through the early decades of the 20th century, the boundary of the settlement pushed outwards from its core, continuing to follow the prescribed "Plat of the City of Zion" plan. One of the last areas of the community to be settled was an area known as "Frog Bottom." The local geography was the primary factor that delayed development, as the area was 12 meters lower in elevation than the south side of town. This difference in elevation caused problems with water pressure. The lower area of town was

also the last to receive a sewer system, relying on septic systems into the 1970s. These factors physically manifest themselves through the presence of more modern styles of residences.

Utilities were established early in the community. Town founder, Jesse Knight, laid the first water main in 1901/1902. Electricity was provided to the town's inhabitants commencing on December 27, 1907. Originally, a steam engine provided power for the town which was located in the Knight Sugar Factory. The factory's closure in 1913 and dismantling in 1915, required the relocation of the steam engine. The local mill, the Ellison Milling Company, agreed to take over the responsibility of producing the town's power and installed a steam engine in their mill, which provided power to Raymond until 1921, after which production was taken over by the Raymond Electric Company.

The continuing growth of the town resulted in the installation of new sewer and storm lines in the 1946. Raymond's Golden Jubilee in 1951, witnessed a further expansion of services with the installation of additional sewer lines, water supply with new water mains, new cement sidewalks, and graveled streets. Natural gas was furnished to the residents in 1955 by the Canadian Western Natural Gas Company Limited. The availability of town services has provided Raymond with a well-maintained picturesque community with irrigated green spaces and high level of walk-ability, attractive aspects to current and future residents.



3.6 LITTLE SUGAR BEET ON THE PRAIRIE: RANCHING AND FARMING IN RAYMOND

At the start of the 20th century, ranching and later agriculture, were, and continue to be, defining characteristics of Alberta and key factors leading to the development of many communities including Raymond. Southern Alberta’s climate and geography attracted early settlers to the area starting in the late 1800s and, in conjunction with the expansion of rail service and irrigation networks, led to the development of numerous large-scale ranches, farms, and agriculture-based business endeavors throughout the region. Although farms and ranches were established primarily outside town limits, their close proximity impacted the town as it served as a economic centre for the area and a processing and shipping hub. These factors in-turn influenced the type of buildings built in the community, such as industrial processing sites and multiple commercial blocks.

The railway brought with it the means of moving not only people, but also livestock, grain, and manufactured goods throughout southern Alberta and the rest of the Canada. Rail lines from the CPR and the Alberta Railway & Coal Company already serviced the area. In 1901, when the Town of Raymond was located and surveyed, the St. Mary’s River Railway was already operational, situated along what would become the northern boundary of the community. This existing transportation infrastructure made the area highly attractive for settlement and served as a means for bringing people and construction materials to the town.

3.6.1 Environment

Raymond is situated in the western edge of an area known as the Palliser Triangle. The Palliser Triangle, a semi-arid steppe region devoid of trees, was named after John Palliser, who surveyed the area from 1857 to 1859.



Pigs on Oscar Raymond Knight's ranch, unknown date
Library and Archives Canada PA-021647

The short-grass prairie contained nutrient rich soil; however, Palliser deemed the area a “wasteland” unfit for agriculture due to its arid environment. As a result of this assessment, farming, and settlement in the region was delayed until the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), during their selection of a southerly route west, deemed the area suitable for the farming of wheat. Their published results significantly influenced the route of the railway and, with federal settlement legislation, contributed to the immigration of settlers to the area.

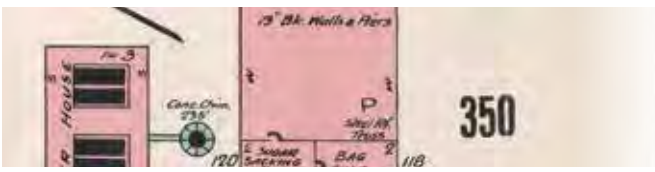
3.6.2 Ranching

As the settling of western Canada grew to become a “national policy” and the migration of people into the rich land of the region began in earnest, southern Alberta’s population rose significantly as early ranchers moved into the area. Ranching was typically the first activity to be conducted in an area with small herds of cattle established by the late 1870s. The climate and geography of the Palliser Triangle produced nutrient rich short-grass prairies, ideal for cattle. Ranching would become a vital industry in



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southern Alberta with the area's expansive grasslands serving as open ranges for Canadian ranchers and would continue to be the primary economy in southern Alberta until the turn of the 20th century. Most ranches, including town founder Jesse Knight's Bar K2 Ranch, were established on the open grasslands outside the limits of Raymond. However, small scale animal husbandry did exist within the town in the form of fowl coops, which were kept in resident's backyards. The presence of nearby ranches did result in the construction of a variety of town buildings to house essential services to ranchers such as black smiths and sawmills, and to provide specific goods including mercantile and hardware stores.

3.6.3 Agriculture

By the late 1890s, a gradual shift began to occur in southern Alberta with agriculture establishing a greater stronghold in the area's economy. The arid climate in the area was not entirely conducive to farming and many early "sodbusters" faced significant challenges. Farming conditions were more suitable to the west where greater occurrences of moisture

existed. As with ranches, large scale farmers were situated outside the Town of Raymond; however, many early residents established household gardens to grow fruits and vegetables. Individual household gardens were feasible in Raymond due to the large residential lots, which were hallmarks of the "Plat of the City of Zion" plan.

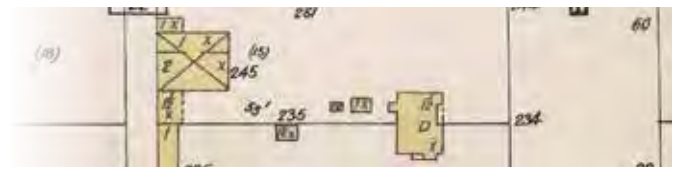
Although the area could support farming, the construction of irrigation networks harnessed the true productivity of the land. Having established extensive irrigation networks in the United States, Latter-day Saints were extremely skilled in the development of irrigation systems, and this knowledge base was actively sought out by the federal government to aid in Canada's agricultural development of the southern prairies. At one time open canals ran through the Town of Raymond carrying water to the agricultural fields beyond. Presently, all that remains in the town of this early form of prairie engineering are green strips of landscape that serve as walking trails situated throughout the town.

Sugar Beets

The vast fields surrounding Raymond once held the "Cinderella crop" that was crucial to the town's early boom in development and construction. Known as "the town that sugar built," Raymond's sugar beet farming and processing industry attracted settlers to the town and influenced its early layout with fields and a large sugar processing factory situated outside Raymond's boundaries. Sugar beet farming began as a by-product of early irrigation programs in the area; as men who conceived the idea of watering the prairies recognized the need for a crop to supplement the cost of the operation and growth of the irrigation system. The construction of a sugar beet factory by Jesse Knight was a requirement of the land agreement between Knight and the Alberta Railway & Coal Company, an agreement which included the future townsite of Raymond. The factory



Plowing sugar beet fields near Raymond, unknown date
Library and Archives Canada PA-021650



opened in the fall of 1903, and its construction and the workforce required to farm and process beets resulted in an influx of people into the area in the mid-1900s. The factory was the largest employer in the area with a workforce of 150 full-time staff and 300 part-time at its peak. Low yields and competition affected the financial viability of the factory and, even with a federal government incentive program, the factory closed in 1913. The Knight Sugar Factory was dismantled and moved to Cornish, Utah, in 1915, before being moved to Missoula, Montana. Although outside the town's limits, aspects of this crucial early economic driver for the town still stand including the factory's reservoir and portions of the factory itself. The sugar beet industry attracted settlers to the town and influenced the establishment of commercial buildings in Raymond and the establishment and expansion of residential neighbourhoods in the community.

Twelve years after the closure of the Knight Sugar Factory, the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company relocated their Washington plant to just north of the Town of Raymond with construction of the new factory commencing in 1925. Its opening brought a renewed wealth and security to the Raymond. This second sugar factory operated until 1963, when economic downturn forced its closure. As with the first sugar factory, the presence of the factory, particularly during its peak production in the mid-1930s, shaped Raymond through a further expansion of residential areas in the town.

3.6.4 Mills

The Raymond Milling and Elevator Company Limited was established in the Town of Raymond in 1902, under the direction of Ephraim Peter Ellison and provided residents of Raymond, Magarh, Stirling, and Cardston local processing facilities. Following the securing of finances in Canada and United States, the wooden-frame mill and elevator were



The Raymond Milling Company elevator in 1904
W.M. Notman Jr., July 1904
Glenbow Archives PD-310-79

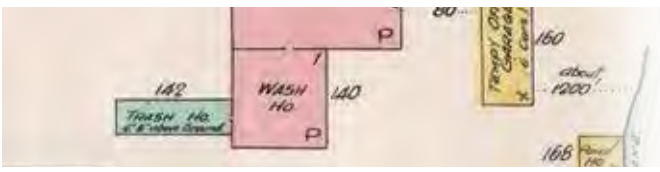


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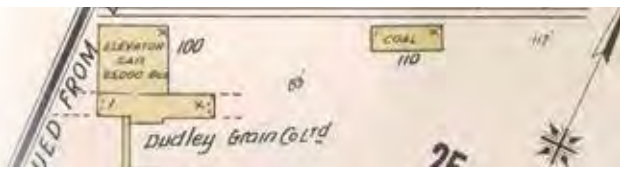


Aerial view of the Hancock Dairy farm in 1952
 Courtesy of Keith Hancock

constructed near the railway. The elevator was capable of holding 50,000 bushels and began receiving grain in October 1902. Four years later, the mill was renamed the Ellison Milling Company. The mill and elevator operated in Raymond until 1923 when it was destroyed by fire. This presence of this processing facility drew farmers to the community who would purchase goods and use the many services established in Raymond while off loading their grain at the elevator, making Raymond a grain storage and processing centre, as well as a commercial centre for the area's farmers.

3.6.5 Dairy

Another staple industry necessary to the growth of a town was a local dairy. In 1903, Hancock Dairy was established as one of the first businesses in Raymond. Hancock was the first dairy producer in southern Alberta to use glass bottles, which were imported from the United States, while dairies in Lethbridge still delivered their milk in buckets. Several other dairies operated in Raymond through the 1950s including Joe Kirkham's, which at that time delivered milk door-to-door.

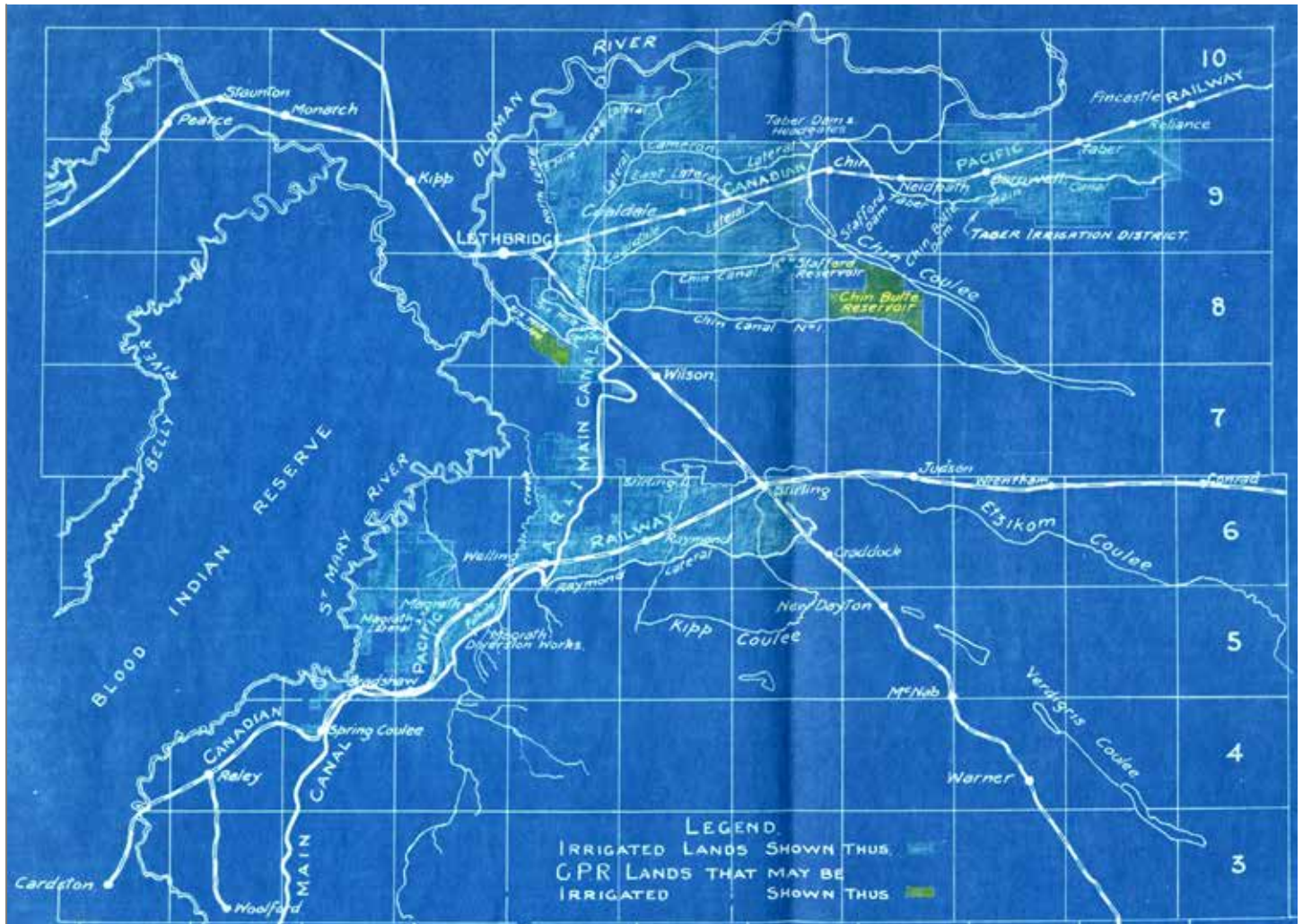


3.7 ENGINEERING THE PRAIRIE

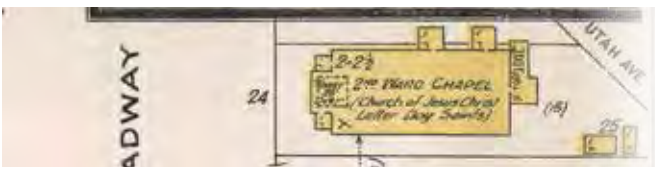
Crucial to the development of Raymond, and much of southern Alberta, was the construction of irrigation systems. Agricultural pursuits in southern Alberta's dryland prairie were always challenging and the establishment of irrigation networks was critical to the success of farming and community development in the region. Previously characterized by John Palliser as a desert that would not support crops or settlements, southern Alberta's agricultural potential came to fruition with the

establishment of irrigation networks. Initially, only small irrigation projects existed until the federal government, following several years of drought and the subsequent abandonment of farms by settlers, considered the need to water the prairies. The *North West Irrigation Act* was passed in 1894, allowing the government to build infrastructure and allocate water for irrigation and other purposes.

In the 1890s, a substantial portion of the land in southern Alberta was owned by the Galt family. Elliott Galt, Sir Alexander Galt's son, recognized



Irrigated lands of the CPR's Lethbridge Section in 1927
 Canadian Pacific Railway. Department of Natural Resources. Annual Report of Operation and Maintenance - Lethbridge Section, 1927
 Galt Archives 198700810



the success of agriculture in the dryland prairie was dependent on irrigation. Charles Ora Card, founder of Cardston and President of the Alberta Stake of Zion at that time, also envisioned using the local river systems for irrigation, and approached Galt with the idea of developing an irrigation system to water the prairie. Under Brigham Young, the Latter-day Saints had gained expertise in irrigation. In 1893, the Galt family established the Alberta Irrigation Company, later known as the Canadian North West Irrigation Company (CNWIC). A land-swap agreement was formed with the federal government that permitted the CNWIC to establish a 500,000-acre block of land adjacent to the St. Mary River. In 1898, Galt entered into a partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ to construct a canal system with payment for their work being made half in cash and half in land. In 1900, the main irrigation canal was finished. Distribution canals to Magrath, Raymond, and Lethbridge were completed between 1900 and 1905.

As irrigation networks were established, the sugar beet industry thrived and irrigated land provided a stable livelihood for locals, resulting in a boom in population and construction in Raymond.

During the 1920s, expansion of Alberta's irrigation systems shifted from large scale projects administered by the CPR and the Canada Land and Irrigation Company (formed in 1906), to farmer-run irrigation districts. The roots of this initiative originated in 1915 with the establishment of the *Irrigation Districts Act*. As a result of this Act, the Raymond Irrigation District (RID) was formed in 1924. Due to ongoing drought conditions and annual water shortages, the RID focused on building reservoirs to help alleviate these conditions.

Environmental conditions and economic hardships in the 1930s again forced the federal government to reassess their position



The historic right-of-way of the Canadian North West Irrigation Company's canal has been converted into a green strip within the southern portion of Raymond (pathway filled with red shale aggregate stretches along the green strip)
Aircscapes International Inc., June 2010



on irrigation. The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) was established in 1935, with an initial mandate to focus on small-scale irrigation projects and storage reservoirs, before expanding their scope to include large-scale irrigation projects following the end of the Second World War. In 1943, the RID requested the PFRA to construct a dam at Pothole Coulee to store surplus canal water, which would aid farmers suffering during water shortages. Corner Lake, situated within the Town of Raymond, was encompassed in this new mandate. By 1946, the Raymond Irrigation District had 15,130 acres of land under irrigation, supplying water to approximately 200 farms.



Headgates of the Raymond Lateral, reconstructed in 1927 Canadian Pacific Railway. Department of Natural Resources. Annual Report of Operation and Maintenance - Lethbridge Section. 1927 Galt Archives 1987008010

Since the 1980s, the Raymond Irrigation District has been working, with financial assistance from the Province of Alberta, on rehabilitating the irrigation infrastructure in the district. Upgrades will eventually allow for 85% of their users to receive water utilizing gravity pressure instead of fossil fueled-powered pumps. Beginning in the early 2000s to the current day, the Raymond Irrigation District has been underway with the replacement of open ditches to closed pipes.

The bulk of infrastructure for the irrigation systems existed outside town limits; however, multiple canals ran through the community. In addition to transporting water to fields, the canals were a source of water for lawns and gardens in Raymond creating green oases on the dryland prairies. In some sections of the town, irrigation canals also impacted lot size and shape. Presently, vestiges of these early canals still exist in the town as green strips used a walkways for town residents.



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3.8 COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN RAYMOND

The growth of Raymond progressed at a steady pace from the time the town was established in 1901. The nearby sugar factory benefited the early community two-fold by providing a source of employment for newly arriving immigrants and a saleable crop for local farmers. Waves of immigrants in the early 20th century fueled the growth of the town and increased the amount of available capital. As Raymond grew, businesses, services, and facilities were established to meet the community's growing needs, with a range of commercial buildings constructed on Broadway. In 1907, the Raymond Board of Trade was founded with L.D. King serving as its first president. The Board's objectives were to promote the town, build upon its strong base, and aid in its development as an independent

self-supporting community. The Board of Trade also worked to support the development of irrigation networks, businesses, utilities, and fund-raising activities. The Chamber of Commerce, the successor to the Board of Trade, was established in 1952 with Hebert F. Allen elected as first president. The Chamber of Commerce's early focus was to reinvigorate the Raymond Stampede, which had experienced a decline in recent decades. Following the revitalization of the Raymond Stampede, the organization focused on assisting in the development, funding, and organization of community projects.

Strategically situated along a community's main transportation corridor, the first businesses typically established in new communities included hotels, banks, general stores, and mercantile. Typically, the main transportation



Raymond Mercantile Company's commercial store on Broadway in 1909
Galt Archives 19911014003



corridor in early prairie towns was the railway, with commercial business established on either side of the tracks. However, Raymond did not conform to this standard, the townsite was positioned to the south of the railway line and laid out following the “Plat of the City of Zion” plan which resulted in the placement of the commercial area in the centre of the town, away from the railway line. The town’s first store, the Raymond Mercantile Store, was opened in the fall of 1901. At the same time, the town’s first hotel with a livery was constructed. Commercial businesses such as groceries, dry goods, butcher shops, hardware stores, lumber yards, confectionery, pharmacy, hotels, and telephone office provided residents with all the necessary local amenities and services.

A unique aspect of Raymond’s early commercial business history was the presence of a number of Asian-owned businesses. Shortly after their arrival in the first decade of the 20th century, Japanese immigrants began establishing businesses of their own. Typically, they rented buildings before purchasing or constructing one’s of their own. The first businesses to be established primarily served their countrymen, with later businesses serving the community-at-large such as: restaurants, cafes, laundries, and small groceries. As Raymond grew, their positioning with the community evolved, as they began to establish larger businesses such as Raymond Motors and Jubilee Motors.

Presently, Raymond continues to possess a strong economic base with many commercial businesses occupying a number of the town’s earliest buildings. The town’s commercial businesses continue to provide for the community’s immediate needs.

3.9 RAYMOND TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

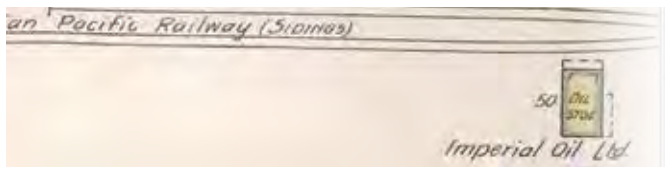
The Town of Raymond is situated in southern Alberta, roughly halfway between Stirling and Magrath. The Canadian Pacific Railway’s (CPR) decision to route the trans-continental railway through southern Alberta resulted in the establishment of numerous towns along its mainline, as well as many of its branch lines. Subsequent construction of privately owned railways in the region further opened up the land for settlement. The later routing of several main roads through the area ensured its ongoing growth following the gradual decline of passenger rail service. Communication networks, particularly telegraph and telephone, are intrinsically linked with early railway routes, often following the course of the railway from town to town. However, prior to the establishment of the first telegraph offices in communities, mail and local newspapers were the primary means to disseminate information across the land.

3.9.1 Transportation

Trails

The land that would become the Town of Raymond, as well as the surrounding area, was marked with numerous trails established by First Nations groups. Many early settlement trails, and later railways, were frequently established based on these early transportation routes. A significant trail, the Whoop-Up Trail, which run west of Raymond, extended 386 kilometers from Fort Benton, Montana to Fort Whoop-Up (Fort Hamilton) on the Oldman River en route to Fort McLeod, and played an important role in the settlement and transportation of goods into southern Alberta from the 1850s to 1880s. The arrival of the railway lessened the need for trails, and by the 1890s most trails in the region no longer experienced heavy traffic.





The railway station that once served Raymond, shown circa 1932
Courtesy of Raymond & District Historical Society

Railways

The construction of the transcontinental railway was crucial in the settlement and development of the prairies. The decision to alter the national railway's original route to a more southerly one significantly shaped settlement patterns in southern Alberta. The southerly route ensured the continued protection of Canada's border and management of the United States' northern expansion. The railway was one of the key drivers of change in the region; however, it could not survive purely on revenue generated by tourists or settlers. As a result, a variety of industries that were dependant on the railway to transport materials were developed in the west including coal, ranching, and farming.

When Raymond was founded in 1901, the St. Mary's River Railway, which had been in operation since November 1900, connected Raymond to the nearby communities of Stirling, Magrath, and Cardston, as well as the rest of Canada. This steel highway provided a means to transport goods and people throughout the country and contributed to the diversity of early

towns both culturally and physically as settlers often brought with them their own customs as well as architectural and building material preferences. The layout of Raymond, adhering to the "Plat of the City of Zion" plan, resulted in the town's placement to the south of the railway, with the rail line and station situated at the town's periphery. The development of Raymond's commercial centre away from the railway line is different from most early prairie town's, which typically established their main street parallel to the railway with commercial and residential developments extending beyond. Presently, the CPR continues to own this siding but no longer provides rail service to the community.

Roads

Like most prairie towns, trails and railways gradually gave way to roads as the primary means of to travel across the prairies. Road systems developed with the adoption of some of the first automobiles in the area. Two nearby highways, Highway 5 and Highway 4, are key transportation routes north to Lethbridge and south to nearby communities and the United States, which continued to move goods and people throughout southern Alberta following the decline, and later stoppage, of rail service. Highway 52 links the two highways and runs directly through Raymond. The transition of shipping goods from rail to road further encouraged the expansion of roads and their maintenance. As the personal ownership of cars became more common, liverys gave way to automobile service centres, which were typically placed along main roads. Raymond's first garage opened circa 1916.

3.9.2 Communication

One of the earliest businesses to be established in new communities is a local newspaper; which served as the primary means for communicating world events as well as local news. In 1903, two years after Raymond was founded, the town's first newspaper,

The Chronicle, was established in Walter S. Berryessa's printing shop. Early printers were often housed in commercial blocks, such as the case in Raymond, capable of carrying the load of print presses, with purpose built facilities only occurring based on the success of a paper. Raymond possessed several newspapers over the course of its history including: *The Raymond Rustler* (1907-1911), *The Raymond Leader* (1911-1917), *The Raymond Recorder* (1923-1956), and the *Raymond Review* (dates unknown). Newspapers provided a means to convey the events of the town, territory, and country. Presently, the *Westwind Weekly* continues to keep residents informed of the events of the community and the surrounding region.

Mail service in southern Alberta was unlike any other in the rest of Canada. Initially, mail in southern Alberta was received from and sent through Fort Benton in the United States using the US Postal Service. Locally-based mail service commenced in Raymond in 1901, with the first post office established in the Town Hall on Broadway with Charles McCarthy serving as Postmaster. Raymond continues to maintain a local Post Office in the town's commercial core.

In 1894, a telegraph line was erected in southern Alberta running from Lethbridge to Cardston. Telegraph lines were typically run along existing railway lines and installed shortly after or simultaneously with the construction of the railway. The existence of the St. Mary's River Railway prior to the establishment of Raymond ensured the early presence of a telegraph in the community. The transition from telegraph to telephone service in southern Alberta occurred first in major centres such as Lethbridge (circa 1894), before later expanding to smaller communities. Raymond's telephone service was established in 1906 by Bell Telephone, with the first exchange located east of the post office on Broadway. In 1916, the Alberta Government Telephones (A.G.T.) established an office in

a new purpose-built structure on Broadway. Soon telephone poles were erected and lines strung to commercial businesses and residences throughout Raymond, forever changing the streetscape of the community.



Front page of the July 24, 1925, edition of *The Raymond Recorder*
Peel's Prairie Provinces



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3.10 COMMUNITY GROUPS AND COMMEMORATION

Raymond has a diverse and long-standing association with multiple clubs and community groups important to the town's development. Early groups focused on building community relationships and improving the quality of life for Raymond's inhabitants with many groups being associated with local religions and the community's agricultural roots. Raymond's range of community organizations reflects the diversity of its inhabitants and their strong ties to the community and its well-being. Although, the presence of many of these organizations is often not physically represented in the built environment, the intangible importance they have in the growth and persistence of early communities is undeniable.

One of the first groups to be established in the community was the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Raymond Legion served to aid returning soldiers, veterans, and widows. One of the Legion's most significant contributions to the community was the erection of a cenotaph in 1921, to commemorate the nine individuals whose lives were lost in the First World War. As subsequent wars occurred, the names of those who perished were added to the cenotaph. Many of the community's clubs and organizations, including Raymond's Royal Canadian Legion, erected halls in Raymond to hold meetings and events. Although the Canadian Legion no longer has a branch in Raymond, the hall remains a physical reminder to the community of the important role this association played in Raymond's early development.

Groups such as the Lions Club and Rotary Club were also established early in the community's history. The Rotary Club held their first meeting in February 1934 in Gee's Club Café and received its charter four years later in 1938. From the beginning, the Rotary Club has focused on aiding the community's economic, educational, and recreational welfare. The club frequently held dances at the Raymond Opera House to raise funds for community endeavours. One such project was the construction of a new swimming pool for the town in 1936. The Raymond Library has also received substantial support from the Rotary Club, which continues to play an active role in the community.

The Lions Club, an organization that was founded in 1917, is comprised of like-minded individuals who focus on issues for the betterment of their community and world. The Raymond Lions Club started in 1941 and over the course of its 70 year existence has offered support to the community in a variety of ways including: War Bonds and Saving Stamps, High School band equipment, eye testing clinics, scholarships, playgrounds, Christmas hampers, and the sponsorship of Raymond's first squadron of air cadets in 1942. The Lions Club continues



Cenotaph erected by the Canadian Legion outside Raymond's historic town hall
Donald Luxton & Associates, April 2014



to work within the community and throughout southern Alberta, holding their bimonthly meetings at the Legion Hall.

Clubs for the benefit of Raymond's youth were especially important to community leaders. The first youth club to be established in Raymond was the Boy Scouts in 1913 by Oscar Kirkham. Scouting has been an important youth activity in the community for over 100 years providing the boys of Raymond the opportunity to learn new skills and participate in community service. Currently, there are several Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Venturer Scouts groups in Raymond.



Raymond Young Adult Buddhist Association's baseball team in 1935
Galt Archives 19790283004

Clubs and associations for the young girls of the community were also an important focus for town leaders. In 1962, Mrs. Kinko Hironaka suggested the Raymond Young Adults Buddhist Association (R.Y.A.B.A) sponsor a Brownie pack for local young girls. Shortly-thereafter, a Girl Guide pack was organized and on January 10, 1963, both groups held their first meetings at the Raymond Buddhist Church. After 15 years, the clubs closed down due to lack of enrollment; however, in 1988, with renewed community interest, the two packs again began holding meetings at the Legion Hall.

Raymond also possesses a strong and enduring connection with war veterans and military service groups. The Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron No. 110 was founded in Raymond in 1942 under the direction of Dr. Frank Hall. A variety of subjects were studied by the cadets including armaments, aircraft recognition, airmanship, and navigation. Following the end of the Second World War, the squadron was disbanded. However, a second squadron was formed in 1952, with a similar training focus as the earlier squadron with the addition of glider training.



Air cadets of the No. 11 (Lethbridge) and No. 110 (Raymond) squadrons in 1942
Galt Archives 19891016317



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Raymond's deep roots in ranching and agriculture made the community an ideal location for the establishment of local 4-H clubs. 4-H, a volunteer-run organization, encourages youth to learn skills to become leaders in their community. Raymond 4-H clubs have typically had a strong focus on farming and animal care. 4-H is an important youth organization that encourages continued connection to the land.

Maintaining a record of Raymond's rich history has been undertaken by the Raymond and District Historical Society. Incorporated in September 1989, the Historical Society operates the Raymond Pioneer Museum, which also houses the Raymond Sports Hall of fame. The museum is located in the Raymond's former Town Hall, which ensures the ongoing use and maintenance of this highly valued historic resource.

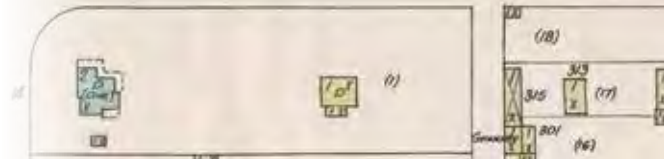
3.11 CHURCHES

The Town of Raymond is rooted in a strong religious foundation beginning with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, without which the town would not have been established. The Church of Jesus Christ significantly shaped the early community through its unique positioning and layout of the town. The later presence of other denominations including Roman Catholic, Buddhist, Presbyterian, and Baptist were established based on community need with religious buildings constructed in proximity to where respective cultural/religious groups had settled. Presently, several churches exist in the town, illustrating the continued spiritual diversity of the community.

3.11.1 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the primary force in the establishment and early development of the community. Its presence is physically reflected in the siting and layout of the early town, design and placement of churches and religious buildings, as well as the intangible but compelling sense of community that one encounters upon arriving in the town.

The Alberta Stake of Zion was established in 1895 and originally composed of three Wards - Cardston, Aetna, and Mountain View. A mere six years later on November 3, 1901, the first meeting in Raymond of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held at Charles McCarthy's store called by Apostle John Whittaker Taylor. At this meeting, J.W. Knight was called as Raymond's first Bishop, and E. B. Hicks and Joseph Bevans selected as counselors. On November 8, 1901, President Charles Ora Card of the Alberta Stake travelled to Raymond to organize the community. The town's First Ward was also known as the Raymond Ward, in honour of Raymond Knight, who played a



critical role in the town's settlement. By mid-December, construction of Raymond's first chapel was underway with the work made possible through the donation of \$2,000 by Bishop Knight and the efforts of countless volunteers. The following spring in 1902, the building was dedicated by then Alberta Stake President, Orson A. Woolley. The original First Ward's chapel was constructed on the site of the present-day Taylor Stake building. The Young Men Mutual Improvement Association (Y.M.M.I.A.) and Young Women Mutual Improvement Association (Y.W.M.I.A) were both organized within the first year the Ward was established, with Ephraim Hicks and Gertie Rolfson serving as presidents, respectively. Raymond's first Relief Society and Primary were established in 1902 with Emma Bevans serving as the Relief Society's first president and Susie Rose serving at the community's first Primary president. This organizations supported and benefited both the youth and women of the Church of Jesus Christ.

On September 3, 1903, following the rapid growth of Magrath, Raymond, and Stirling, the

Alberta Stake of Zion was divided and the Taylor Stake, the second stake established in Alberta, was formed with Heber S. Allen as President and Theodore Brandley and J. William Knight as counselors. Similarly, the ongoing growth of Raymond necessitated the division of the First Ward into two Wards in July 1912. As a result of this division, meetings for the First Ward were held at the Knight Academy, Raymond's first brick school until, following extensive fundraising efforts lead by Ward Bishop J. Orvin Hicken, a new church was constructed in May 1940.

The steady growth of Raymond during the first decades of the 20th century resulted in the further division of the Church of Jesus Christ's first two Wards resulting in the Third and Fourth Wards in September 1947. Boundaries of the Wards remained fixed until the 1970s when rapid growth of the Church of Jesus Christ resulted in the need to once again to divide the four existing Wards - Fifth Ward (1978), Sixth Ward (1983), Seventh Ward (1984). It was also during the early 1970s that the Taylor Stake of Zion became known as the Raymond Alberta



First Ward and Taylor Stake as it appeared in 1940
Glenbow Archives NC-7-815

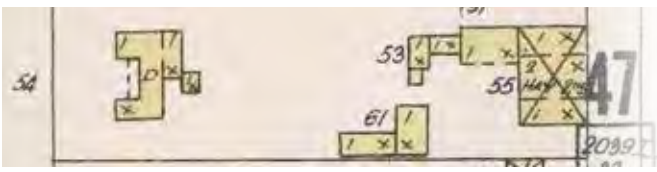


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The Second Ward Chapel took over ten years to build. Presently, it contains Raymond's Town Hall, library, and theatre
 Courtesy of Earle L. Covert

Stake of Zion. This change also realigned boundaries of the Stakes, resulting in some of Raymond's Wards being absorbed into other Stakes. More recently, the Raymond Wards have divided again to form the Eighth and Ninth Wards.

As Wards were divided, existing and in a number of situations new buildings were constructed to hold meeting and meet the needs of the Church of Jesus Christ. The former Raymond Buddhist Church, which was originally Raymond's first school, also served as the Second Ward's church for a period of time. The Second Ward is also connected to one of the Raymond's most striking buildings - Raymond's Town Hall, theatre, and library - which was built as the Second Ward's chapel in 1928, designed by F. B. Rolfson who based its design on a chapel in Provo, Utah. This impressive and elegantly crafted building is situated in the middle of the town, conforming to the "Plat of the City of Zion" plan, and original held offices, classrooms, a social hall with stage, and assembly hall.

Throughout its history, numerous chapels and halls were constructed in Raymond to meet the growing needs of the Church of Jesus Christ. A unique aspect of many of the Ward chapels was

the inclusion of a gymnasium in their design, an aspect not typical of religious buildings. A variety of additional buildings associated with Church of Jesus Christ were erected in Raymond including the Taylor Stake Cultural Hall (1953) erected next to the Taylor Stake building and the Raymond Seminary (1961). The Cultural Hall served as a place for social gatherings and Stake functions and became the center for recreational activities. The Raymond Seminary, a religious training centre held classes of religious training for grades 9 to 12, to meet the position that secular and religious training should go 'hand-in-hand' resulting in a well-balanced member of society. The enduring presence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Raymond is reflected in the number, variety, and placement of associated buildings throughout the community.

3.11.2 Buddhism

The presence of a Japanese community took root early in Raymond's history, with the first Japanese settling in the community as early as 1902. The available work associated with the construction, farming, and operation of the Knight Sugar Factory originally drew Japanese immigrants to Raymond with a substantial influx during the Japanese interment period of the Second World War. Many of the earliest inhabitants emigrated directly from Japan via Canada's west coast and brought with them a strong Jodo Shinshu faith. Initially, services were held in the homes of congregation members. As the Japanese population continued to grow and the community developed the need for a church rose. In 1929, Y. Hironaka and Y. Hatanaka approached the Church of Jesus Christ to purchase the old Second Ward Chapel, formerly Raymond's first school. After successfully raising the \$5,000 necessary to purchase the building, the first Obon Service was held in the church on July 1, 1929, overseen by Reverend G. Taga of Vancouver. That same year, elections were held and Y. Hironaka was elected to be the first President. The temple's first resident Reverend, Shingo Hagatomi, arrived in 1930.



The congregation continued to grow and in 1932, recognizing the ongoing financial needs of the church, the community established a co-operative store 'Kobai Kumiai' in the church. The store was able to purchase foodstuffs and ethnic goods in bulk and resell them to the Japanese community at a fair price, while securing an ongoing source of funds for the Reverend's salary and general maintenance of the church. In 1934, a new Reverend arrived, Kawamura, who in addition to presiding over the Buddhist faithful, also taught Japanese school to local children.

The church ensured the youth of the congregation were honoured through the establishment of Sunday School, the Seinen (Young Men's Buddhist Association) and Joshi-seinen-Kai (Young Women's Buddhist Association). The latter two groups, amalgamated in 1945, were very active in the community. Additional groups were created through the church that focused on musical and athletic endeavours including the Budo-Koen – the group responsible for organizing Judo and Kendo groups in the community.

The size of the church's congregation ebbed and flowed over the decades. The 'Kobai Kumiai' was operated into the 1990s and the church was operational until 2006. Following its closure, the church's shrine was donated to the Glenbow Museum. At the time of its closure, the Raymond Buddhist Church was the oldest continually used Buddhist sanctuary in Canada, and, in 1984, the building was declared a Provincial Historic Site. This building is one of the few remaining physical representations in Raymond of a once vibrant Japanese community.

3.11.3 Roman Catholic

The Roman Catholic community in Raymond was slow to establish a parish; however, following the First World War, an influx of immigrants from Catholic European countries



The United Church on Park Avenue in Raymond
Donald Luxton & Associates, January 2014

arrived in Canada and Raymond, which warranted the establishment of a local church for parishioners in 1927. Previously, Raymond's Catholics would travel to Lethbridge to attend Sunday mass. The first Catholic church, the Church of the Sacred Heart was built with financial aid from the Bishop of Calgary, and constructed by volunteer labour from the local congregation in 1927, with the church dedicated by Rev. J.T. Kidd, Bishop of Calgary, on June 14th, 1927. Father Fabre served as the church's first priest, tending a congregation of approximately 300 individuals. The congregation size fluctuated of the years, with the Church of the Sacred Heart closing in the early 1990s.

3.11.4 United Church (formerly Presbyterian)

The Presbyterian Church had an early presence in the Town of Raymond, with the first congregation being formalized in 1902. The first church was also built that same year, with a manse erected the following year as a residence of the first Presbyterian minister, Mr. McKillop. The original church was then relocated near the centre of the town in 1914. The amalgamation of the Methodist, Presbyterian,



and Congregational Churches in 1925, resulted in the renaming of the church to the Raymond United Church. Growth of the United congregation warranted the construction of a new church and hall. A site was selected and the original church was moved from downtown to its present site in 1952. Over the next six years, the building was renovated and expanded to represent the extant church. The United congregation continues to have an enduring presence in the community.

3.11.5 Baptist Church

The appearance of the Baptist Church in Raymond is a recent occurrence. The congregation was initiated with the establishment of the Raymond Community Bible Club in 1950. It was incorporated as the Evangelical Community Church of Raymond in 1951, and a building was purchased for services that same year. It was not until 1965, that construction began on the Baptist's first

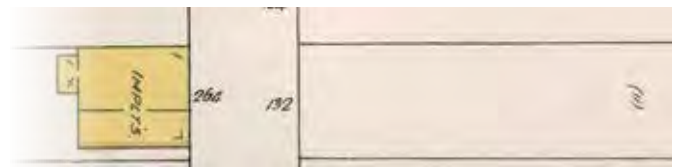
purpose-built church. This facility remained in use until 2004, when a new Baptist church was constructed in the community. The increasing scale of the church over the years reflects the growing size of the congregation. The Baptist church in Raymond is highly identified conforming to a standardize design including a rectangular plan with steeply pitched front-gabled building and prominent pointed steeple at the roof's ridge.

3.11.6 Hutterite and Mennonite

Hutterite and Mennonite communities were first established in Raymond and the surrounding area in the early 1910s. The communal nature of the Hutterite's limited the presence of their churches within the boundaries of the Town of Raymond. The Mennonites, who chose to pursue a non-communal lifestyle, did establish religious institutions in the community with the presence of two congregations. The foundation for the Stirling Mennonite Church in Raymond



View of the Raymond Buddhist Church in 1975. Completed in 1903 as Raymond's first schoolhouse, the structure was purchased and converted into Jodo Shinshu Buddhist church in 1929
 Courtesy of Raymond & District Historical Society



was laid in 1958, and the church is still standing within the community today. The second congregation, the Western Plains Mennonite Church, was established in Raymond in 1999 as part of the Midwest Mennonite Fellowship.

3.11.7 Cemeteries

Raymond's Temple Hill Cemetery is located on Temple Hill, overlooking the Town of Raymond. The cemetery, although presently outside the town limits, is owned and maintained by the town. When first established, shortly after the town was founded, the cemetery fell within the Town of Raymond boundaries. Initially the cemetery was cared for by town residents; however, in 1931, Delia Woolf submitted a resolution to Town Council to formalize the cemetery's upkeep. Shortly thereafter, the town established a board to oversee the care and management of the cemetery. A unique aspect of the Temple Hill Cemetery is the arrangement of graves within the cemetery. The cemetery permits access to all; however, graves are grouped by religious orders and/or practices.

3.12 EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING IN RAYMOND

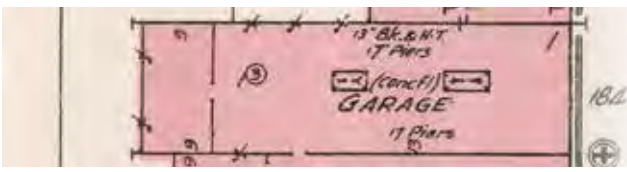
As the population of Raymond grew, so too did the town's need to develop educational facilities. Many farmers and early settlers brought their families with them, resulting in the need for educational facilities. The early establishment of the town's first school in 1903, illustrates the importance early settlers of Raymond placed on educating the community's youth.

3.12.1 Public Schools

The first educational facility established in Raymond was a four-room school completed in the fall of 1903, in what is presently known as the former Raymond Buddhist Church. The large size of the two-storey wooden-frame school was ambitious for the community given its population at the time; but, reflected the importance placed on education by the town's founders and the belief in the community's continued growth and permanency. By 1910, over 500 students had attended the school, which taught grades one through eight. Due to the population boom of the early 1910s, the community decided to erect two additional schools: a 12-room brick school, with southern



Knight Academy, just prior to its demolition in 1963
Courtesy of Raymond & District Historical Society



Alberta's first auditorium, and the Knight Academy (1910). The use of brick to construct these schools reiterated the permanency of the community and the value placed on education. These two schools were more elegantly crafted than Raymond's first school, with the Knight Academy possessing hallmarks of Arts and Crafts architecture. The Knight Academy was started by the Church of Jesus Christ and was the first Church of Jesus Christ school in Canada. The Knight Academy "educate[d] young men and women of Raymond and the towns of Southern Alberta in academics and social living, set in a religious background" (Turner 1993). The Knight Academy was taken over by the Raymond School District in 1921 and used as the community's high school. As the town's population continued to grow, new schools, designed in the architectural style of the period, were constructed to accommodate the increased demand and existing school's renovated and re-purposed to suit the community's needs. In 1952, a new high school was constructed, and the former Knight Academy converted to a junior high. The community's high school was relocated in 1963, to a new building, where it remained until 2008. The junior high moved

into the former high school and the Knight Academy subsequently torn down in 1963. In 2008, a new high school was constructed with a substantial auditorium and commercial kitchen. Presently, the community possesses three schools to meet the Town of Raymond's scholastic needs.

3.12.2 Separate School

In the 1950s, the growing population of Roman Catholics in the Raymond and the surrounding area warranted the establishment of a board to investigate the feasibility of constructing a Separate School in the community. A decade later the Raymond Catholic Separate School, District No. 100 was founded. On September 4, 1962, the Sacred Heart School opened its doors. The school's Modern architectural style differed from other schools in the community and when opened it accommodated 100 students. The school operated for eight years until declining enrollment, operating costs, and shifting policies resulted in its closure in 1970. Presently, Raymond is situated in the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4 and students are bused to Lethbridge to attend classes.



Raymond High School
Donald Luxton & Associates, January 2014



The Raymond Agricultural College as it appeared in 1929. The structure currently sits empty in northeast Raymond
Glenbow Archives NC-7-774

3.12.3 Post-Secondary Education

Given the early agricultural-based economy of southern Alberta, a school for agriculture was a logical addition to Raymond's educational facilities. Previously, the Demonstration Farms of the 1900s provided information and education on farming and animal husbandry. By 1914, the government's Ministry of Agriculture joined the movement and established Agricultural Schools at Vermillion, Olds, and Claresholm; however, further expansion was halted due to the outbreak of the First World War. Following the war, the Raymond Agriculture Society petitioned to form an agricultural school in the community. Raymond Agricultural College opened in 1920, teaching students standard educational courses as well as veterinary science, livestock management, dairying, agronomy, and blacksmithing. The design and high-quality craftsmanship of the school were hallmarks of the educational buildings of the period. Low enrollment and fluctuating government funding resulted in the school being open sporadically over the next decade with the school closing permanently in 1931. The campus was eventually taken over by the province and became a part of the Provincial Auxiliary Mental Hospital in the late

1930s; however, the site now sits vacant.

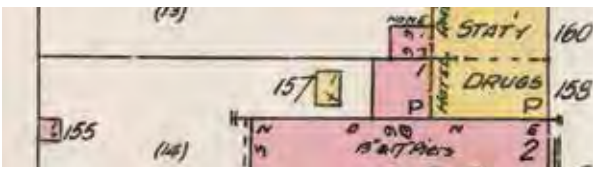


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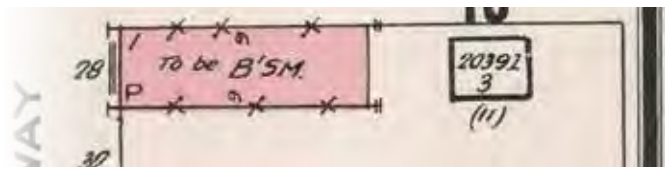
3.13 RAYMOND HEALTH SERVICES

During Raymond's formative years, residents struggled to find local doctors and adequate health care facilities. Individuals that did become ill were either treated in their homes, or taken to Lethbridge for treatment. The town's first doctor, J.H. Rivers, established his practice in Raymond in 1902. The early community did have a number of exceptional midwives who assisted in the delivery of babies. Occasionally, a maternity room was set up in a local home, which could be used for deliveries and for minor surgeries performed by roving local doctors. As the population of the town grew, so too did the need for the establishment of a local hospital.

In 1942, after years of petitioning by Raymond's early doctors, the Raymond Board of Trade agreed to investigate the practicality of establishing a municipal hospital in Raymond. After extensive research and consultation with surrounding hospitals, the Raymond Municipal Hospital was opened on February 3, 1945. The 24-bed hospital was designed by the architectural firm of Meech and Meech, and constructed by the Calgary firm of Bennett and White. Shortly after its opening, an auxiliary was formed by local woman to aid the newly built Raymond Municipal Hospital. Pressures from the town's growing population resulted in the hospital's significant renovations in 1961, which increased the hospital's capacity to 28-beds, improved maternity rooms, and added an operation suite. The hospital expanded again in 1984, through the construction of a new building, which resulted in the hospital's 75-bed capacity with 25-bed extended-care wing. In 1989, a 23-bed long-term care wing was opened. The multiple expansions resulted in the varied architectural design of the hospital. Presently, the Raymond Health Centre is an acute and continuing health care facility offering 24-hour emergency services, obstetrics, and palliative care.

Early dentists were typically "traveling doctors," setting up temporary offices in existing buildings to perform their services. As town's expanded, and the need for resident dental practitioners grew, dental offices were established, often in existing commercial blocks on a town's main street. Raymond records indicate that dental services were being provided as early as 1902 in the town; however, it was not until 1911, that the first dentist practice was established in the community. As the community grew in the additional offices were opened, with their services centred in Raymond's commercial downtown.

The Provincial Auxiliary Mental Hospital was established at the site of the former Raymond Agricultural College in 1939. As a result of this, the college underwent a two-year retrofit to modernize the buildings; which altered the interior of the buildings, but left the exterior largely intact. The hospital treated both mentally ill and mentally handicapped individuals with the first patients arriving from Ponoka in February 1939. Like many mental hospitals of the period, the facility was self-sufficient, having its own gardens, dairy, and chicken coop, and auxiliary buildings. The hospital was expanded in 1949, which increased the facility's capacity. In 1973, the hospital was reclassified as a special home and began operating as a group home, thus creating an open atmosphere for the clients. Currently, the facility is no longer used and sits vacant.



3.14 GOVERNANCE AND PROTECTION

The community of Raymond was one of a number of settlements established in southern Alberta by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints during the last decades of 19th century and first decade of the 20th century. The town's planning following the "Plat of the City of Zion" plan and overlain with Haussmann's "Paris Plan," placed buildings associated with the management and protection of the community at the town's centre on its main street. The community was incorporated as a village in 1901, and due to an influx of immigrants to Raymond over the next two years, incorporated as a town on July 1, 1903. Elections were held that same year, with local businessman Charles McCarthy elected as Raymond's first mayor with T.O. Knight, A.E. Moore, C.W. Lamb, E. B. Hicks, R. H. McDuffee, and F. B. Rolfson serving as councilmen. At the time Raymond reached town status, the community's population was nearly 1,500 and within three years the population blossomed to 2,500.

A community's town hall is often an authoritative physical anchor in a emerging town and projects a level of permanency to the outside community. Local administration managed the development of Raymond from the centralized growth of its downtown commercial main street, the development of residential neighbourhoods, the establishment of public services to provide and care for the town's residents, and the development of recreational areas for the use and the enjoyment of the community. The community's first town hall, constructed in the early 1900s, was a wooden-frame boomtown façade building situated on Raymond's main street. In 1923, a second town hall was constructed, an elegantly detailed brick building, at the corner of Broadway and Church Avenue West. In addition to serving as the town hall, the building also housed the community's library, police station, and jail.

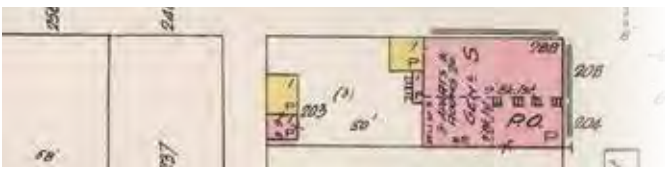


Raymond's second town hall, constructed in 1923. The Raymond Pioneer Museum currently occupies the building
Courtesy of Earle L. Covert

Presently, Raymond's Town Hall is situated in a former Church of Jesus Christ church and serves as an impressive landmark in the community. The town hall moved to its present location, a provincially designated resource, in 1996 and the facility houses the local library, as well as town theatre. The shift in scale, design, and building materials between the town halls is representative of the evolving socioeconomic position of the community from small, single economy village to a town of great diversity in its economy, demography, public services, and social structures.

Similar to many small prairie communities, Raymond's early fire protection and police protection needs were handled by volunteer forces, with the latter operating from the town hall. Raymond's Volunteer Fire Service was organized early in the community's history. The community continues to maintain a volunteer fire service. Law and protection during the early years was handled by Town Constables with James Rodeback serving as Raymond's first policeman. Presently, Raymond is serviced by a local detachment of the RCMP and is supported by the Ridge Regional Protective Services.





3.15 STAMPEDE, JUDO, AND RIVALRIES

Critical to the cohesiveness of rural communities was the establishment of community sports and recreation areas and facilities. Recreation and social gatherings were important to Raymond's early settlers, and to those that continue to live in the town today. Rivalries between neighbouring communities such as Stirling, Magrath, Lethbridge, and Cardston served to maintain ties and bring communities together. Associated with sports and leisure activities came the infrastructure to support it, which resulted in the development of parks, sports fields, arenas, and the stampede grounds across the town's landscape. Raymond's strong sense of community has resulted in a rich history of social events and sporting activities that encouraged community interaction and aided in Raymond's development and permanency.

Today, most Alberta communities have stampedes; however, Raymond can boast the first in Canada when it was held on July 1,

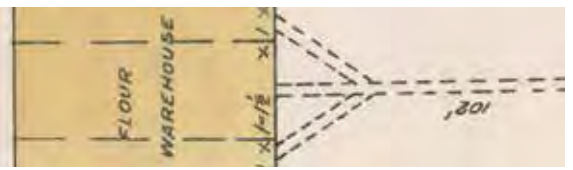
1902. Ray Knight, town namesake, funded and promoted the first stampede. He was a man of many "firsts" through his coining the term "stampede," building the first shotgun style bucking chute, and building Canada's first stampede arena and grandstand. Knight was also one of the first stampede producers and stock contractors. The stampede grounds created a unique landscape within the town - bringing the country to an urban context. The stampede was first held at the northeast corner of 200 South and 100 East. The following year, 1903, horse racing was added and the stampede was moved to Victoria Park, (presently named Ray Knight Memorial Park), where it continues to be held to the present day. The large park, located just three blocks east of Raymond's main street, is laid out like no other in the community with a large racetrack surrounded by open fields, grandstand, arena, and numerous corrals. Throughout its history, the stampede grounds have also hosted sporting events such as baseball games, basketball tournaments, and running competitions. Presently, the stampede is held annually on Canada Day.



Material arts demonstration at a gymnasium in Raymond, April 1952
Glenbow Archives NA-5327-710

Raymond's immigrant population also contributed significantly to the town's sporting-life. Raymond's Japanese community grew significantly with the internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. The town's first Dojo was established by Yoshio Katsuta in 1942 at the internment camp. The Dojo persisted following the war with Katsuta maintaining management until 1966. The Dojo was the first in Alberta with local gymnasiums used for practice, competitions, and demonstrations. In the 1980s interest in Judo in Raymond underwent a resurgence and the Raymond Judo Club was reorganized. The club and other dojos are active in the community today, with practitioners participating in tournaments throughout western Canada.

Additionally, Raymond has a rich history of team sports, likely due to the early



establishment of the Raymond Amateur Athletic Association in 1924, which provided key funding and organizational assistance to the town's athletic activities. One of the earliest team sports organized in the community was baseball in 1903. A number of teams were initially formed such as the Raymond Robins (known now as the Raymond Rangers), the Raymond Young Men's Baseball Association (Y.M.B.A.), and the Raymond Bossies. Strong rivalries with neighbouring communities were a constant and Raymond's teams were frequently league winners. Open fields served as the first baseball diamonds in Raymond, before official sports fields could be formalized. Presently, the community possesses a number of baseball diamonds situated adjacent to residential neighbourhoods with the fields utilized for baseball games, as well as other recreational activities.

Basketball was, and continues to be, a popular sport in Raymond. The unique accommodation of gymnasiums in Church of Jesus Christ churches, ensured ample courts for practice and tournaments. The community's first basketball game was held July 1, 1904, between Raymond and Stirling. The early "heyday" of the sport occurred when the Raymond Union Jacks were formed in 1921. The team won numerous Provincial, Western, and Canadian Men's Titles, playing teams from Canada as well as those states along the United States/Canada border. The Jacks continued to compete for the next three decades before the team was disbanded in 1955. The Raymond High School basketball team has continued to maintain the community's strong interest in the sports, producing numerous elite players.

Canada's national pastime was slow to come to Raymond. Wilbur Van Orman organized the community's first hockey game in 1927. The rink was constructed by the M Men and located on land at the northeast corner of Ray Knight Memorial Park and later known as the Raymond

Ice Palace. The community's first hockey team, the Raymond Sheiks, played their inaugural game against the Agricultural College's Aggies in 1928. Following the strong show of support by the community, junior teams such as the Flying Romeos, Red Devils, Rangers, and Shooting Stars were organized and a new rink was built in 1931. It was also at this time that Raymond sponsored its first official hockey team – the

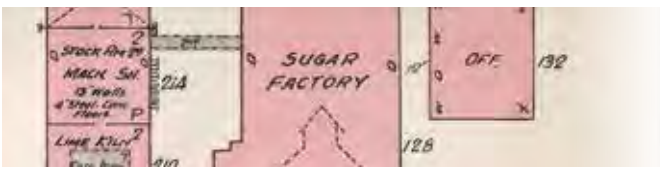


Raymond High School Mustangs basketball team in February 1966
Galt Archives 19753803183

Raymond Dodgers. The community's Minor hockey team, the Raymond Ice, was established in 1975 with the formation of the Raymond and District Minor Hockey Association. The community's ice rinks continue to host this popular sport.

A wide-variety of additional sports had early roots in Raymond including horse racing (1903), track and field (1903), wrestling (1903), tennis (1911), golf (1928), and boxing (1935). More recently, football, soccer, swimming, rugby, and motocross have become popular sports in the community taking advantage of Raymond's many parks and sports fields.





3.16 RAYMOND AND THE ARTS

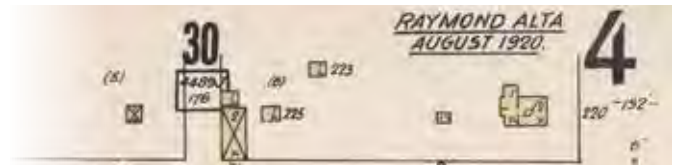
Raymond possesses a deep theatrical and musical history, which resulted in the early establishment of venues, companies, and societies to support and encourage the arts in the community. Local bands and dramatic groups contributed to the growth of Raymond's cultural landscape and lent to the appearance of the town's permanency and sophistication. Their presence also drove the construction of a collection of theatres, stages, outdoor arts spaces, and an opera house in the town. Initially, the Church of Jesus Christ started many of the town's musical and theatrical groups, doing so to aid in self-improvement and fellowship with participants striving to do their very best.

Raymond's first drama club was organized in 1903 and its talents immediately became recognized throughout southern Alberta. The Church of Jesus Christ has had deep roots in drama as part of the Mutual Improvement

Association programs. The town's dramatic productions frequently travelled to surrounding towns for the enjoyment of neighbouring communities. Early local productions and traveling Canadian and American theatre companies frequently visited Raymond in the Inter-war period, putting on productions at the Raymond Opera House (1909). An impressive and architecturally unique brick building that served as the social and entertainment centre of the community and was subsequently re-purposed as a gymnasium prior to being torn down in 1988. The Raymond Playhouse Society, established in 1982, carries on the town's theatrical roots, putting on regular productions for the town. The Broadway Theatre, a component of Raymond's Town Hall complex, which also includes the town's library, is the primary venue for artistic and theatrical events in Raymond. The placement of Raymond's main theatrical and musical venue and library in the Town Hall complex solidifies the role arts and literature hold in the town.



The Raymond Opera House, built in 1909
 Courtesy of Earle L. Covert



The community possessed a number of arts venues, many of which unfortunately have been demolished, that contributed to the early artistic and social landscape of the town. Movies arrived in Raymond in 1911, first shown at the Alta Theatre operated by Ernest Stark. Two years later a second theatre was established known as the "Rex." Fire resulted in the loss of the theatres; however a third, the Capital Theatre, opened in October 1928. Unable to compete with home televisions and theatres in Lethbridge and the Capital Theatre was closed in 1970.

The town also possessed one of the largest outdoor dance pavilions in Alberta. In 1933, the Blue Moon Pavilion was constructed adjacent to the Second Ward building, presently Raymond's Town Hall. The outdoor dance hall was 110'x 60' in size with a smooth polished concrete floor. The pavilion's inaugural dance was held on July 26, 1933 with King's Kanadiens providing the music. Although the dance hall is gone, it exists in the memories of the couples who danced their first dance at the Blue Moon Pavilion under a starlit prairie sky.

Similar to the dramatic arts, music was an integral part of early pioneer life, with many musical groups having deep ties within the community. Choirs, quartets, and trios were just some of the musical groups that Raymond possessed. Raymond has also produced a variety of exceptionally talented musical groups, many of which accompanied early singers. One of the first established was the 15-member brass band (1903) that played at Raymond's first stampede. In 1906, locals formed the Raymond Military Band that played to the delight of the community into the 1920s. Raymond has also hosted a number of orchestras, the first of which was established in 1908. Musical events were held in peoples' homes, purpose-built outdoor venues, theatres, halls, and on the streets of the community during parades and celebrations.

The literary arts were also important to the town's early inhabitants. Community-minded men and women who felt the town's need for a library formed Raymond's first library in 1931. The library was initially located in the town's Council Chamber; however, it quickly outgrew the location and was moved to the basement, and then first floor, of the former Town Hall. The library soon outgrew the space and, following the petitioning by the Friends of the Library, the library was relocated to the newly constructed Raymond Community Centre in 1996. The library remained at this location until it was relocated to the present Raymond Town Hall. The evolution in size of the library reflects the persistent importance this type of institution holds in a community and its central positioning in the Town of Raymond ensures easy access for all the town's inhabitants.



Municipal Heritage Partnership Program





3.17 “WELCOME HOME”: A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

The community of Raymond is composed of hardworking community-minded people with enduring connections to the town. Many of the residents are long-term and/or have multi-generational roots in the town. The residents value the community for its inclusivity, walkability, and its multiple greenspaces where people can participate in sporting activities and socialize. The unique level of closeness in the community has resulted in the prevalence of ‘nick names’ for many of Raymond’s long-standing residents, as both a term of endearment and friendliness. Residents of Raymond possess a strong volunteer spirit, reflected by the variety of community organizations, groups, and societies and are well known for their competitiveness and entrepreneurial spirit.

Much of the original town fabric is intact including its wide streets, commercial downtown core, and residences setback from the street in a variety of architectural styles. The configuration of the downtown permits easy of use during community celebrations which see multiple generations returning to the town. The variety of architectural styles in the community reflects not only periods of population growth and development over the last century, but also personal and cultural preferences in style and materials. Residents value their community and its built and intangible heritage as evidenced through community initiatives to improve public awareness of Raymond’s diverse and unique historic resources. The connection residents have with the community ensures the ongoing preservation of Raymond’s built history for future generations.



Parade along Broadway circa 1950
Galt Archives 19760209056



**DONALD LUXTON
AND ASSOCIATES INC**



**Municipal Heritage
Partnership Program**



4.0 Future Recommendations

4.0 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION BY	FUNDING
Continue with subsequent phases of the Town of Raymond Heritage Management Program including the formalization of a Places of Interest List and the development of Heritage Inventory program	Heritage Consultant with support from Heritage Resource Committee and Town Staff	Municipal Heritage Partnership Program (Heritage Inventory funding - 50/50 cost sharing)
Explore tourism opportunities developed from information compiled in the Historic Context (i.e. Sacred sites tour, residential architecture tour, commercial main street tour)	Town Staff, Heritage Resource Committee, Raymond Pioneer Museum, Raymond & District Historical Society	Municipal Heritage Partnership Program (Management Plan funding – 50/50 cost sharing)
Continue process to expand networks between communities that have established heritage inventories and heritage management programs to work towards more regionally based cultural tourism and possible granting initiatives	Town Staff and Heritage Resource Committee (with local museums and historical associations)	Heritage Awareness funding through the <i>Alberta Historical Resources Foundation</i> (up to \$5000 per project)
Explore funding options for any necessary cemetery restoration work	County Staff and Heritage Resource Committee	Funding available through <i>Alberta Historical Resources Foundation</i> ; private sponsorship
Explore options for updating local history publications in Town of Raymond	Town Staff, Heritage Resource Committee, Raymond Pioneer Museum, Raymond & District Historical Society	Heritage Publication program through <i>Alberta Historical Resources Foundation</i> (\$5000 for books, \$3000 for brochures)
Explore future opportunities for plaque programs to identify key sites throughout the Town of Raymond	Town Staff with Heritage Resource Committee (can also be part of Heritage Management Program)	Heritage Awareness program through <i>Alberta Historical Resources Foundation</i> (\$5000)

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