

# CHARLIE WALES & Jennett and Alta Wales

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

## Three Rushed To Hospital For Surgery

BEZANSON — Just as we said last summer "It never rains but it pours" — well anyway last week it was an extreme of another sort. Janice Thompson, Lorraine Stark and Vernie Bulford were all rushed into the Grande Prairie hospital for emergency appendectomies. We are happy to report that they are all doing well. Get well wishes from all their school pals go out to these youngsters.

Sincere sympathy of this district is extended to **Charlie Wales** and his daughters of the Glen Leslie area, on the untimely death of their wife and mother. Mrs. **Jeannette Wales**, passed away at Grande Prairie Hospital at the age of 48.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
AND CLAIMANTS

In the Estate of JENNETT  
LAURA WALES, late of Grande  
Prairie, in the Province of Al-  
berta, who died on the 21st day  
of January, A.D. 1965.

TAKE NOTICE that all persons  
having claims upon the estate of  
the above named must file with  
Messrs. Patterson and Patter-  
son by the 21st day of May,  
1965, a full statement of their  
claims and of securities held by  
them.

PATTERSON & PATTERSON  
Solicitors for the Administra-  
tor

104 Evans Building  
Grande Prairie, Alberta

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## Livestock washer

New feature at the County Fair this year for livestock exhibitors is a livestock wash-rack. Series of hoses are used to wash down the animals. Checking the new facilities are

(left to right) Fred Dobbyn, agricultural society president; Lewis Hawkes, secretary; and designer Walker Mayor and Charles Wales.

# Grande Prairie county fair slated August 10-12

The Grande Prairie county fair marks its second official decade this August, even though it was a popular event back in the early days when the city was only a scattering of crude houses on the banks of Bear Creek.

The 20th annual fair will this year be held Aug. 10-12, a week later than normal.

And the three-day event will be supplemented by two related happenings on the previous weekend including the increasingly popular Muskoseepi Day in Bear Creek park and the reservoir bathtub races.

Both events are scheduled on the weekend prior to the start of the fair itself.

Fair secretary Lewis Hawkes, who swears this is definitely his last year with the mid-summer event which he has almost single-handedly pushed to its present prominence, is crossing his fingers for both good weather and an entry total topping last year's record 4,100 mark.

Also attached to this year's celebration is a fly-in scheduled before the fair gets officially underway with the annual downtown parade.

The official opening will be made by Grande Prairie MLA Ira McLaughlin who may be assisted by Premier Harry Strom. Mr. Strom will be in the city Aug. 10 to officially open the city's Pioneer Museum, will hopefully take part in the parade, and is expected to visit the grounds.

There won't be any organized downtown activity this year although it is expected city merchants will dress up on the Frontier Days theme once again.

The Jaywalkers' Jamboree, where the main street is blocked off to vehicles, has been wiped out because of the lack of merchant interest and support, and the inability to find a coordinator for the event.

The fair board itself seeks some sort of downtown activity to complement the fairground exhibits, displays and general fun and games.

The first JayJam was held two years ago for one day and was rated at least a partial success. The project expanded to two days last year and collapsed because of a lack of merchant participation.

There was a financial loss both

years.

There was also a feeling that the event conflicted to a degree with the fair itself and it was once proposed that the event be held apart from the fair. This idea also fell through when no co-ordinator could be found.

The fair itself is a proven drawing card. Mr. Hawkes said there is some disappointment that the downtown activities are not going to be perhaps as full as usual, but he indicates interest in this year's fair is running well at this time.

Fair catalogues are available and provide a rundown on the various events which include horses, beef and dairy cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, grains and grasses, vegetables, fruits, plants and flowers, culinary, household arts, handicrafts, fine arts, school work, 4-H, photography, and farm mechanics.

Harry Vold of DeWinton, Alta., one of the top rodeo stockmen in the west, is handling this year's rodeo and the midway will again return with its fare of rides.

The rodeo events feature the popular chuckwagon events, infield rides, pony chariots, and horse

racing. There is a children's day again.

The kickoff parade will include the City of Grande Prairie's Trumpeter Swan float which took awards at both the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton Klondike Days parades earlier this month.

The city Jaycees are handling the parade again and entries are due Aug. 8 to Wally Buryn.

This year there is a schedule of entry fees in the livestock sections, and there is a new regulation for beef cattle classes.

All information can be obtained from the catalogue or from the county fair office which is listed under the Grande Prairie agricultural society in the telephone book.

The fair office itself is open daily and will have extended hours as the fair deadlines move closer.

President of the agricultural society this year is **Charles Wales**. First vice-president is **Bill Henry**, second vice-president is **Alf Baum** and executive directors are **Gordon Fried** and **Fred Dobbyn**. **Gordon Gilkyson** is the racing committee secretary.

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# Pioneer Museum officially opened by Premier Strom

By BILL SCOTT  
of our staff

The Grande Prairie Pioneer Museum should specialize in one area to ensure its success.

And it should also find a high-calibre curator, now that it's officially gone beyond the decade-old dream stage of its developers.

That's the word from an official of the provincial museum and archives branch who attended yesterday's opening of the museum by Premier Harry Strom.

The provincial spokesman said the museum is a fine facility but that the word these days is specialization. He said too many museums try for overall general displays but healthy ones devote themselves to a specific area.

The official, who declined to be identified, said an area where the city museum could shine would be in fossils. He said the museum had a

good base already and that this could be built up.

He, like Premier Strom, commended the local museum society which has worked for 10 long years to get the building open. He said however that the day of the one-man-show type of development was over and that the museum now had to press on and not be content with relaxing simply because it was open.

The blue-and-white steel building, costing an estimated \$50,000, drew an official opening crowd of more than 250 persons yesterday as the premier snipped a broad red ribbon at the east end of the Bear Creek footbridge.

Speakers preceding the premier included museum society president Mel Rodacker, Mayor Elmer Borstad and MLA Ira McLaughlin.

Mr. McLaughlin said it was appropriate that the first sod for the building was turned by former

premier Ernest Manning and that his successor was opening it.

Mr. Strom said the museum was a fine institution and commended local officials, especially Mr. Rodacker. He said the displays, which he saw during a morning tour yesterday, were good and that the displays of household utensils reminded him of his early childhood in southern Alberta.

The crowd jamming the east end of the bridge included oldtimers, many of whom came into "la grande prairie" over the Edson Trail more than 50 years ago, as well as shiny-faced youngsters intent on seeing just how the Peace Country got going more than 60 years ago.

The opening was preceded by a noon luncheon that included Mr. Strom, Mr. Rodacker, Mr. McLaughlin, Mayor Borstad, Ald. Jim May, George Pratt of Peace River who brought back an original

printing press owned by his father Bill, Bert Tieman who built the display cabinets, museum society officials Bob Scott, and Seath Sutherland, Elmer Logan who was one of the original donators to the project, city college president Dr. Henry Anderson, county reeve Val Hennig, county fair president Charles Wales, chamber of commerce president Gordon Wilson, ministerial association representative Rev. John Naphin, museum manager Art Menzies, longtime museum supporter Jack McIntosh, Rotary club representative Bill Bowes, Bob Guest who helped immeasurably in setting the museum up over the last several weeks, forestry superintendent Ray Smuland of the city rockhounds, oldtimer Gerald Carveth who's a former director of the society, and Guy Ireland who's also a society director and assistant to Mr. Guest.

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# Civic housing near complete

Applications for residence in the city's \$400,000, 30-unit civic housing complex in northeast Grande Prairie will be accepted by a newly-formed management board before the end of December.

City council last night approved a bylaw setting up the five-man board and then appointed members Ald. Jim May, Ald. Don Wood, and citizens Jeff Watson, Bill Lowe and **Charles Wales** to the body.

Two aldermen had to be appointed. Ald. May will act as chairman. The board will choose its own vice-chairman.

Ald May said applications will be accepted for residence in the complex, located in the 108 Ave. - 94 St. area, as soon as a secretary-manager is hired. Advertising for that position is expected to appear in The Herald-Tribune almost immediately.

He said guidelines for potential applicants would be published in The Herald-Tribune at the time of the call for residents. The board would then consider all applications — no criteria for residency have yet been set out — which would give successful applicants time to serve 30 days' notice at their present residences.

The first tenants of the civic housing complex would move in at the end of January.

City Commissioner John Miedema said the complex, consisting of 15 semi-detached units and being built by D & B Building Contractors, is 60 per cent completed.

He indicated that accommodation in the complex would be for gainfully-employed persons who cannot afford market rent in their present homes.

Consideration will be based on family income and family size and current living quarters. The low-income housing project, featuring three- and four-bedroom units, is geared to couples with at least two children.

Rents would be based on income on a scaled basis, with the city subsidizing the difference. Bulk of the operating cost is picked up by the federal and provincial governments although the project is completely owned by the city — the only one of its kind in Alberta.

The management board members, under the newly-adopted bylaw, would serve one-year terms to a maximum of three years, and are responsible for administration of the project, finances, and maintenance, as well as the duties of the secretary-manager.

The units are fully serviced and include a stove and refrigerator, as well as landscaping.

## *A very busy visit*

Norma Hickey, Miss Dominion of Canada 1970, has a busy round of activities next week during the County Fair.

But she also gains some free time for herself.

The 19-year-old Prince Edward Island miss arrives via CP Air Monday and will take part in the County Fair parade starting at 10:30 a.m.

She then attends a luncheon at the Golden Star restaurant about 1 p.m. which will include Mayor Elmer Borstad, Reeve Val Hennig and county agricultural society president **Charles Wales**. Following that, Miss Hickey will spend the afternoon at the fairgrounds leading to participation in the official opening of the 21st annual event at 7 p.m.

Her evening is free. The city swim club will be her hosts during this period.

Tuesday, she enjoys a downtown Kinsmen breakfast and tours the city before leaving for Beaverlodge and Hythe at 10:30 a.m. with Sandi Doering of the city and the International Days Queen chosen the day before.

Miss Doering was a Miss Canada contestant two years ago.

On her out-of-city visit, Miss Hickey will visit the Beaverlodge agricultural research station, a display at the town swimming pool and a tour of the town. A chamber of commerce luncheon open to the public will be held at the Anglican church hall at 12 noon. Tickets at \$2 each are available from Beaverlodge merchants.

At Hythe, Miss Hickey will tour the senior citizen home.

Returning to Grande Prairie, she will take part in the presentation of awards to winners of the store decorating contest and will visit Central Park Lodge, Swanhaven nursing home and Pioneer Lodge.

She is scheduled to travel with the River Rats up the Smoky River at 4 p.m. for a visit to the club's facilities on Wolf Island.

During her entire visit, she will travel in a white Vega station wagon courtesy car provided by Thomson Motors of the city. She leaves by air Tuesday night.



NORMA HICKEY

Miss Dominion of Canada (1970)

# Multi-purpose means. . .

## MULTI-PURPOSE

With all the recent publicity on the subject of multi-purpose buildings and grants from the government related to our County Agricultural Society, I would like to explain the actual meaning behind those words so loosely used.

The idea of multi-purpose buildings is hardly new in my 58 years of observing changes in the Grande Prairie area. When five years old starting school, we walked, mostly barefoot, across country to a multi-purpose building. It was a church which served as a school on weekdays from Monday to Friday. This church still stands 13 miles due east of the CFGP radio tower.

Even on our way to school, many purposes were served: We crossed two land survey lines where we could stop and look both ways for miles down a narrow cut through the bush straight as a die.

We had holidays in the wintertime for the first few years and went to school in the summer. These are just a few of the little things that children miss riding on the bus.

The provincial government is stressing a preference for multi-purpose buildings for the same obvious reasons as we did in the past, and recently they made available a \$50,000 conditional grant toward a multi-purpose building.

Now, one of the conditions is that we have to match this \$50,000 with at least an equal amount before we can expect any dollars from the government. In order for the agricultural society board to get a loan for a building to be used year-round for meetings, exhibit displays, recreational facilities, hockey and indoor sports, they have to get a municipality, be it the county or the city, to guarantee the repayment of at least another \$50,000 loan to match the grant.

The city was a very interested partner provided that the building

would also accommodate their requirements and was made larger than the fair board would actually require.

This building would not meet all the agricultural society board's requirements, but would be a big improvement.

Part of the proposal was that the city would staff and maintain this building and the agricultural society board get full use of it for a month or so getting ready for the fair, and also fair week. The city would be carrying the bulk of all the repayments in proportion to the facilities that were obviously provided to them.

However, the fair board felt that the facility being located on county land leased by the board, and in view of the general support that could reasonably be expected from county people using and supporting the fair facilities as well as the proposed recreational facilities, the county should also share to a minor extent in the construction costs.

If the city was going to guarantee the repayment of the loan, a \$1-a-year lease would have had to be arrived at just for the area covered by the building, and an agreement on the use of the building.

**CHARLES WALES**  
Grande Prairie

**Editor's note: Mr. Wales is the past-president of the fair board.**

# Racing association gets representative on agricultural board

The Grande Prairie Racing Association (GPRA), formed last year to control pari-mutuel horse racing on the fairgrounds, will be allowed to appoint a member to the Grande Prairie County Agricultural Society's board of directors.

The move was made last night at the society's annual meeting after Secretary-Treasurer Ray Lawley said it was required if the society was to retain control.

He said a member of the GPRA (director Don Hawkes) was already a member of the fair board, but Mr. Hawkes did not represent the GPRA.

By amending the constitution, the association would be eligible to name a director to the board in the same manner the city, County of Grande Prairie, the chamber of commerce and other organizations did.

The more than 40 members in attendance agreed with the suggestion and approved the request.

At the same time, they also amended another section of the constitution which dealt with the selection of life members.

Director Charles Wales said husbands and wives should be allowed to sit as life members. Currently, one life membership can be granted by the board of

directors each year to a member who has served for 15 years or more.

Mr. Wales motion, which was approved, allows the board to select one individual life membership in the organization or a membership to a husband and wife.

Mr. Lawley said a list is currently being compiled for those who could be named as life members.

In other business last night, directors were asked to look into the possibility of merging with the Grande Prairie and District Horticultural Society. If approved, it would mean a provincial grant would be made available for the association's annual flower show.

And they also decided to approach the Parks and Recreation Department about the possibility of landscaping the fairgrounds by planting trees and shrubs next year.

Grass has already been planted at the grounds this year.

Any order for trees for the grounds would have to be sent to the provincial tree nursery in Oliver, near Edmonton, by Nov. 30, District Agriculturist Frank Graves said.



## *Oldtimers*

Officers for 1976 were elected at the annual meeting of the Grande Prairie and District Oldtimers Association. Officers (from left) are Ed Crerar of Grande Prairie, honorary president; Arvid Moe of Buffalo Lakes, past-president; Richard Johnson of LaGlace, vice-president; **Charles Wales** of Grande Prairie, president; and Gerald Carveth of Grande Prairie, secretary-treasurer.

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# County seeks seniors' help

By BILL SCOTT  
of our staff

South Peace oldtimers are being asked to help the County of Grande Prairie preserve pieces of the pioneer past.

The county, intending to resume the marking of local

historical sites this summer, is strapped for information, particularly in connection with long-unused graveyards in the area.

Frank Stoll, a director of the district oldtimers' association and a county employee, told the oldtimers' annual meeting

Saturday that any help would be appreciated.

Work planned to date for this summer includes marking the former Lake Saskatoon and Bezanson townsites as well as additional cemetery markers.

Mr. Stoll said some of the old cemeteries are known, others are not, and in almost all cases there is a lack of information on their history. Provincial archives have not proved entirely satisfactory for this, and the main source has been church officials.

The annual meeting, which re-elected last year's executive to another term, also indicated it plans an intensive membership campaign this year. Secretary Gerald Carveth said involvement with the successful publication of *Pioneers of the Peace* over the last couple of years had shunted membership concerns to the side.

Two years ago there were 35 new members; last year there were 25. The goal this year, vice-president Richard Johnson said, is 100 new members. The association ended 1976 with 284 memberships — a near record — including 125 oldtimers and 159 of their offspring.

Membership in the association is limited to those pioneers who arrived prior to the railway in 1916, mainly over the Edson Trail, and to succeeding generations.

A life membership fee schedule was approved as one method of boosting members. Those under 50 years old can pay a flat \$20 for life membership in the association. It's \$15 for those 50-59, \$10 for those 60-69, \$5 for those 70-79, and \$1 for those 80 or older.

A copy of the successful *Pioneers of the Peace*, which has almost completely sold out, will be presented to the new senior citizen home in Valleyview in line with similar presentations to other such facilities in the South Peace.

Charles Wales will again head the association this year. He was unable to attend the annual meeting because of a recent operation in Edmonton. Marley Sherk has been chosen honorary president for the year.

Directors for 1976 include Betty Barr, Maxine Mallinga, Jack Gaudin, Oscar Gudlaugson, Dorothy Ireland, Edward Heller, Guy Ireland, Ritchie McRae, Henry Monkman, Alfred Moon, Violet Patterson, Florence Robinson, Don Sherk, and Mr. Stoll.

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## *Top team*

Winners of the A playoff and the Midwest Electric Trophy for ladies' golf at the Grande Prairie Golf and Country Club this year recieved their award last night. Midwest representative Al Wiglesworth (left) presents the trophy to team captain Onaugh Currie. Other members of the team are Barb Larson (back middle), Joan McDonald and (front left) Pat Molyneaux, Dona Wolbeck and Marian Fukushima. Missing is Alfa Wales.

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# Senior Games were great fun

By MIKE BEAUDIN  
of our staff

They didn't return laden with medals but you'd never notice the difference.

Out of the 15 Grande Prairie residents who attended the Alberta Seniors Games in — the first ever — only the four members of the carpet bowling team won medals, bronze for their third-place finish, were in the top three. But for most the spirit behind the Games was fun, not medals.

"I didn't win," exclaimed snooker player Joe Kloberdanz. "But I probably had more fun than the guys who did. And you can bet your shoes on one thing — I'd sure as heck go back again."

A total of 900 seniors from across Alberta participated in the three-day competition in Camrose. Opening ceremonies were held Thursday night and the flame was doused Saturday night.

The hospitality and facilities at the event, part of Alberta's 75th anniversary celebrations, were excellent according to local competitors.

## UNBELIEVABLE SHOW

"It was tremendous — just an unbelievable show is what they put on," said an excited Ron Penney, a member of the bronze medal team. "They had all kinds of facilities, a lot more than Grande Prairie and they've only got half the population."

"Everybody was impressed. They couldn't even begin to take it all in."

He said his team of Elmer Father, Ken Munroe and

Lilly Sather didn't bowl up to par and could've done better. "We didn't know how well we could do but we're quite satisfied."

Joe Kloberdanz, like several other local seniors, had problems dealing with different facilities. He plays on a short snooker table here but had to shoot on longer tables in Camrose.

"I haven't played on the big tables for 40 years," said the 71-year-old. "I only lost my game by the game ball but that's not bad considering. But I hated like the dickens to lose like that. But I'm not complaining."

## FRAN GETS FIFTH

Fran Tanner, a 59-year-old dart participant, who placed fifth, also raved about the Games. "They were tremendous hosts and everybody was quite impressed."

Said dinking player Walter Konevecki: "We had good meals, a good place to stay, and good transportation. Everybody was 100 per cent satisfied."

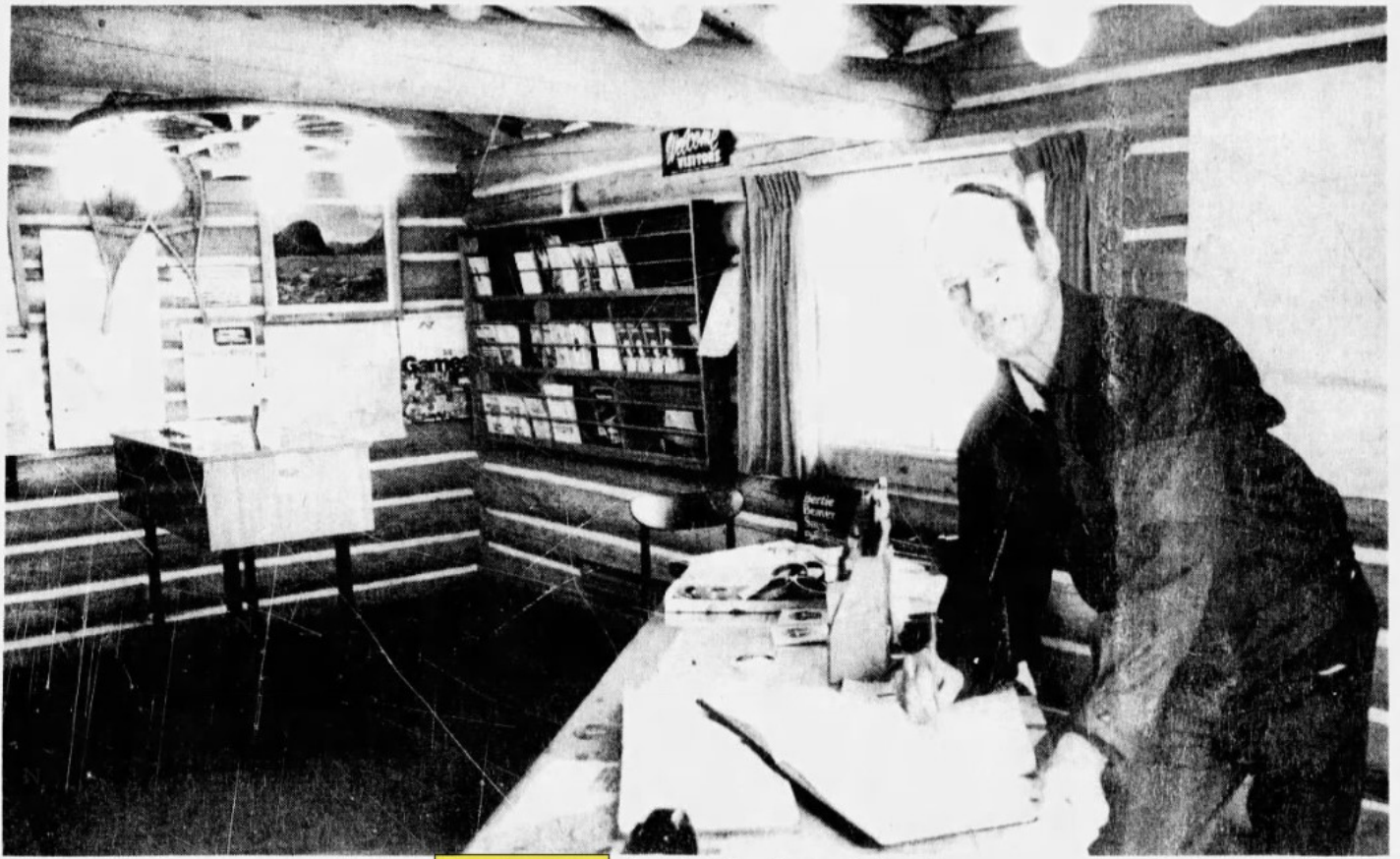
Konevecki along with teammates Jim Pallant, Emma Peebles and Dorothy Leslie had only three practices before they left and still managed to win one of three games.

A total of 85 seniors, aged 55 and over, from the Peace Country competed in the Games. Other Grande Prairie participants were Stan Moore and Charles Wales in golf, and shuffleboard players Young Harmon and Alethea Haakenson.

The Games were so successful, in fact, the province is thinking of making them an annual affair.

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Charles Waies helps staff the city tourist booth

Staff Photo by Jeff Harris \*

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## **New executive**

The new executive for the Golden Age Centre was elected recently. It is made up of (front row, left to right) Mrs. Elma Bow, secretary; Mrs. Helen Sutherland, past president; Mr. Jim Smith, president and Mr. Herman Hindmarch, vice-president. The council was also appointed. It is made up of (back row, left to right) Mrs. Jo

Monkman, Mr. Hakon Alstad, Mrs. Florence Knox, Mrs. Dorothy Leslie, Mrs. Vera Rigler, Mrs. Alta Wales, and Mr. Charles Wales. Mr. Vic Elfred, also a member of the council, was not present. The election of the treasurer was postponed until the next meeting.



Marilyn Wales, City Queen 1958.

Photo courtesy Charles Wales

## DAGMAR 'DEE' MAYO

Mrs. Dagmar 'Dee' Mayo passed away at the Grande Prairie Auxiliary Hospital on Wednesday, March 16, 1983, at the age of 74 years.

She was born at Denmark and has been a long-time resident of the Grande Prairie district.

She is survived by her loving husband, Walker of Grande Prairie; four daughters: Clarice (Fred) Walenstein of Calgary, Jennette (Ralph) Sheehan of Peace River, Marie Mayo of Calgary, Thelma (Louie) Steifel of Medicine Hat; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two brothers: Max Anderson of Edmonton, Jim Anderson of Blacie; four sisters: Mary Lien of Valleyview, Mina Arndt of Lethbridge, Alta Wales of Grande Prairie and Ann Luchia of Lethbridge. She was predeceased by two sisters: Johanne Singlinger and Jeanette Whales; and one brother: Chris Anderson.

Funeral service for the late Dagmar 'Dee' Mayo will be held at Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie, on Saturday, March 19, 1983 at 2 p.m., with Reverend D'Arcy Lade officiating. Interment to follow at Emerson Trail Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Heart Foundation.

# 'Feisty' local athletes take on Alberta's best

By RICK ERLENDSON  
of our staff

A total of 250 athletes from the Peace Country (Zone 8) left this morning for the Alberta Summer Games being held in Mountain View County from Thursday to Sunday.

Mountain View is made up of the towns of Carstairs, Cremona, Olds, Disbury and Sundre.

Of the 250 participating, 80 percent are from Grande Prairie and the surrounding area.

The last Summer Games were held in Lethbridge in 1981. At that competition the Peace Country finished seventh of eight zones with 42 medals.

And, as far as sports to look for medals in, things haven't changed much. The last two summer games have generated a predictable trend as far as titles go with wins in track and field, swimming, canoeing and horseshoes. At the 1981 games, 32 of 42 medals were won in these sports.

According to zone co-ordinator Susan Kankkunen, those same sports are once again the most likely to produce medals.

"We have athletes who are just off the provincial record mark in swimming and track and field. We'll be watching Ron Hoveland in swimming and Tammy Staple in track — they should both come home with several medals," Kankkunen said.

"Horseshoes is another sport we should do well in, as is canoeing with a full complement of canoers from Beaverlodge."

The co-ordinator also thought local



teams in baseball and slowpitch might bring home medals.

With a drive of about nine hours ahead of them, athletes met this morning at 10 a.m. to be bused from here to locations in the different towns depending on the sport. Although the games don't start until Thursday morning with the official opening at 6 p.m. that evening, Peace Country coaches thought it would be best if local participants could arrive with a little time to recover from the long bus ride.

Kankkunen hopes the early arrival by the athletes — who'll be travelling the farthest to the games — will help the athletes improve on their second-to-last finish at the last summer games.

"We hope to improve on that record. One thing I've noticed about participants from the north is that they are enthusiastic about what they are involved in.

"We don't have the population base to draw from in the Peace zone as most southern zones do and often we don't have the expertise other zones have, but we do have athletes that try hard," she said.

"We want to go down there and show them what feisty people we are."

Kankkunen said the games are held

every other year as a grass roots participation event.

"We try to get people involved in sports and increase the spirit of competition among participants in those sports.

"It's not an elite sporting event. Some of the sports in the games are being held for the first time this year including bantam girls soccer and biathlon as a demonstration sport."

The Alberta Games Council with a representative from each zone supervises the running of the games and the operation of outreach programs through which clinics are held to get new sports going in an area.

For example, a synchronized swimming clinic was held in Grande Prairie recently and a team will now represent Zone 8 in that area. The same thing happened in Valleyview where a handful of divers have been registered for the games.

Although separate games are held for Seniors every other year as well, some of the sports include an age category for them in the Summer Games. They include lawn bowling, horseshoes, golf and equestrian.

Special guests at the games will be former Lt. Gov. Grant MacEwan and conservationist Andy Russell. Some of the attractions other than sporting competitions include the RCMP Musical Ride, constant entertainment by amateur musicians as well as noted entertainers Diamond Joe White, San Francisco's Stringband and Edmonton's Paul Hahn, displays of art, crafts, dancing, and antique cars.

Complete list of Grande Prairie and area athletes on page 11.

## Summer Games

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### LAWN BOWLING

Ron Penney, Grande Prairie; Jim Pallat, Grande Prairie; Alan Drysdale, Grande Prairie; Chas.

Wales, Grande Prairie; Mary Kaplan, Grande Prairie; Dorothy Leslie, Grande Prairie; Alta.

Wales, Grande Prairie; Alice Drysdale, Grande Prairie.

← Excerpt from page 11

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## ***Helping hand***

Rotary Club director of community services, Kal Bradford (right with cheque) presents the club's first half payment of a pledged \$50,000 to the Golden Age Centre building fund. Gathered on the deck of the addition, due for completion by mid-April, are (left to right) Rotary project chairman Gordon Bloomfield, centre building committee members Val Hennig and Charles Wales, Golden Age Centre council chairman Bill White (accepting the cheque), Haakon Alstad and Allan Drysdale, member and chairman respectively, of the building committee.



## New GAC executive

The Golden Age Centre's recent annual meeting included the election of a new executive. The group includes (back from left) council members Betty Welter, Florence Knox, Haakan Alstad, Vera Rigler, Elmer Smith, Mary Kaplan, Herman Hindmarch and Walter Head; (front from left) past-president Alan Drysdale, secretary Peter Unger, president Bill White, vice-president Charles Wales and treasurer Jean Chagnon.

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## Colorful quilts for Tamarack

Staff Photo by Laura Shuya

These ladies from the Golden Age Centre have dedicated their time and talent to make 15 colorful quilts which they've donated to Camp Tamarack to be used as bedding for the cabins. Camp Public Relations director Kyleen Haining was pleased to accept the quilts. "We have a lot of groups and organizations donating their time and services to Camp Tamarack. We get calls from people asking what we need and they take it from there." She said it's these type of things that people do that make the program a success.

From left to right in photo are Jennie McDonald, Lena Glowacki, Alice Drysdale, Bernice Gorius, Lola Ditch, Myrtle Brown, Alta Wales, Vera Rigler and Dorothea Mansfield. Standing behind the group to accept the quilts is Kyleen Haining.

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# Tales of the Last, Best West

By JANINE FOSTER  
Herald-Tribune staff

Whether it's playing cards or pitching horseshoes, talk always seems to come around to the good old days.

For some, the stories are second- or third-hand, but to a few, the trek to the Last, Best West seems like only yesterday.

"It was kind of rough going with five kids and a covered wagon," remembers Jean Lock, who came to the Peace Country with her family at age five in 1911. "I often wonder how we did it when we see those rivers now."

The annual oldtimers picnic held last Sunday is a major chance to dust off the old tales and share a special fellowship among the sons and the daughters of this area's first pioneers.

The Grande Prairie and District Oldtimers Association is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and though the ranks of the originals from 1928 have thinned, their children and their children's children have pledged to keep the tradition going.

The association is limited to those who arrived in Grande Prairie before the old Edmonton, Dunvegan and B.C. Railway - March 31, 1916. Their descendants are also eligible.

They share stories of hardships on the Grouard Trail from Edmonton or the shorter, tougher Edson Trail - both guaranteeing weeks and even months of travel and adventure. They remember when the Hudson's Bay Co. was in Lake Saskatchewan, the premiere South Peace community before Grande Prairie even existed.

Bob Rycroft Sr., Charles Wales, Alex Murchie, Graham McFarlane and Don Grant all share the distinction of being born around 1913-1914, only a few years after their parents made the trek north.

Seated around a table, they tell of childhood on their fathers' homesteads. Some, like McFarlane, are still on the original homestead and still farming.

They remember school picnics and country fairs in Lake Saskatchewan, and a time when walking from farm to farm visiting the neighbors was an accepted evening activity - before farms grew so large and walking became impossible.

A quarter-section of land cost \$10 and they've watched as farming in this country progressed from the most technologically simple method to the most advanced.

"We have more up-to-date equipment here than you'll see anywhere. We went from nothing to the top, and goodness knows where it will go from there," said Rycroft.

"We were little bushwhackers in those days," he laughs.

Those with livestock could agree to feed and water cattle or pigs being shipped by train to Edmonton for the chance for a free trip "outside". Of course they had to ride with the animals.

Frank Stoll's father was an oldtimer and he boasts Lake Saskatchewan as his birthplace on his birth certificate. When the railway skirted the village in the late 1920s, it was relocated to what is now Wembley. He remembers purchasing his membership to the association for 50¢ in 1937 or 1938. He is now the past-president.

Dorothy Ireland, secretary-treasurer, is the daughter of an Englishman - a plumber - who walked the Edson Trail in eight days in search of farmland.

For new president Allan Langdon, his father - a butcher - came over the long Grouard Trail: Edmonton, Slave Lake, Dunvegan, Grande Prairie. He farms on land adjacent to his father's homestead.

"Our forefathers were the people who roughed it to get here," said Ireland proudly.

It's hard to put a figure to the number of members, she said, but they're spread across the country and in other countries as well.

And all three executive members can see the association stretching on into the future.

"It will continue forever and ever as long as we get people interested enough," said Stoll.



Oldtime music for oldtimer gathering

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA

## Pioneers recall more hopeful Canada

By PAUL COWLEY  
Herald-Tribune staff

Local pioneers say Canada on the eve of its 125th birthday is less optimistic than the country they knew decades ago.

When Grande Prairians looked to the future 30 or 40 years ago they saw a future filled with more hope, says Laura Partlow, who has spent 50 years in the area.

"When you hear people say those were the good old days, that's true, those were the good old days," Partlow says. "I feel sorry for the young people growing up today."

"The hope isn't there like it used to be," she says, pointing out the number of people looking for jobs. "The attitude in those days is so different than today."

The Canada of today which stumbles through constitutional debates while wrestling with soaring unemployment and run-away deficits has lost some of the patriotism of the old days, she says.

"I think we felt we were more patriotic to our country. We felt we were proud of the country. I don't know if that feeling is there today."

Partlow first came to Grande Prairie as a four-year-old in 1918. She went east as a 22-year-old only to return to the area for good in 1954.

She fondly remembers Canada Days of the past when everyone gathered for a sports day. The horses ran, the children played baseball, and the farmers showed off their vegetables.

Canada Day wrapped up as it has for decades — in a shower of fireworks.

Charles Wales says there has always been a lot of patriotism around Grande Prairie.

"Heck, when the First World War came, they just flocked out of here to go into the army and in the Second World War," says Wales, who was born here in 1914.

Much of that patriotism still lives, he says. "There's still quite a bit but maybe not as



Charles Wales remembers a time when Canada Day meant sports days and baseball.

Staff photo by Christine Vanzella

much as then," he says.

Like many long-time residents, Wales fondly remembers the sports days and playing baseball.

Locals didn't turn the occasion of the country's birthday into a flag-waving spectacle. Who had money to buy flags in those days, he says.

Andy Hudec remembers the Peace region as a "land of milk and honey."

At least that's how it looked to his 16-year-old eyes.

He had heard, as had farmers from all over the West, that the Peace had produced the world's wheat king — a farmer judged to have

the best quality wheat at major agricultural fairs in the United States.

Hudec soon left the droughts and plagues of locusts of Saskatchewan behind to eke out a living in the Peace.

After stepping off the bus from Saskatchewan in 1930, Hudec went to work as a farm laborer.

Life wasn't easy even in the Peace and his first attempt to homestead outside of Goodfare ended in failure. "It didn't work out because you couldn't make enough money all summer to pay for grub and food over the winter," he says.

"They were tough times, but there was a different attitude. Now with the way times are, it's

not very promising, not very encouraging."

Doug Clarkson, who has spent most of his 78 years in the Peace, says early settlers knew much less about their countrymen than they do now.

"The French problem has kind of come to a head the last few years. It was always there but we never heard about it."

But Clarkson remembers the patriotism that followed the First World War. The crash of the late '20s dimmed hopes but then the local farmer was named wheat king.

"I always thought that was the best advertisement we ever had," he says.

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# Zone 8 seniors claim most-improved award

## Team seventh at Alta. Seniors Games

Herald-Tribune staff

Zone 8 (including Grande Prairie) won 18 medals to finish seventh overall at the Alberta Seniors Games that concluded on the weekend in Lacombe.

The medal count was enough to help Zone 8 win the Lieutenant Governor's Cup as the most-improved team at the Games.

Grande Prairie medal winners included: Joan Amnes, dance, Russell Ames, dance, Anne Green, dance, Emilia Lavalley, dance, Sadie Edgar, golf, Fred Enns, golf, Glenda Tamasi, snooker, Hans Homfeldt, tennis, William McCubbin, tennis, Walter Labarowski, track, Kendel Tang, track, Norene Irwin, bowling, Harold Leggatt, bowling, Harold Pearson, bowling, Herman Hindmarsh, carpet bowling, Mabel Hindmarsh,

carpet bowling, Evelyne Sheehan, carpet bowling, Alta Wales, carpet bowling.

Other medal winners included Jack Burley of High Prairie in cribbage, Alma Friberg of LaGlace in track, Lloyd Nergaard of Peace River in bowling, Kenneth McGrann of Baytree in floor curling, Amy and Clarence Howe of Beaverlodge in dance, Olga Broadway, Doris Lund and Clifford Pepper of Bonanza in floor curling along with Edna Campbell of Bonanza in horseshoes, Margaret Dumas of Fairview in scrabble, John Van Den Berg of Peace River in bowling along with Adie Witter in horse shoes.

From Rycroft, Christina Grover in horseshoes along with Daniel Kunesky and William Zahara in shuffleboard.

# CHARLES WALES

## ***OPEN HOUSE***

for friends and  
acquaintances to celebrate

Charles Wales

**80th Birthday**

**on Sunday, Sept. 4, 1994**

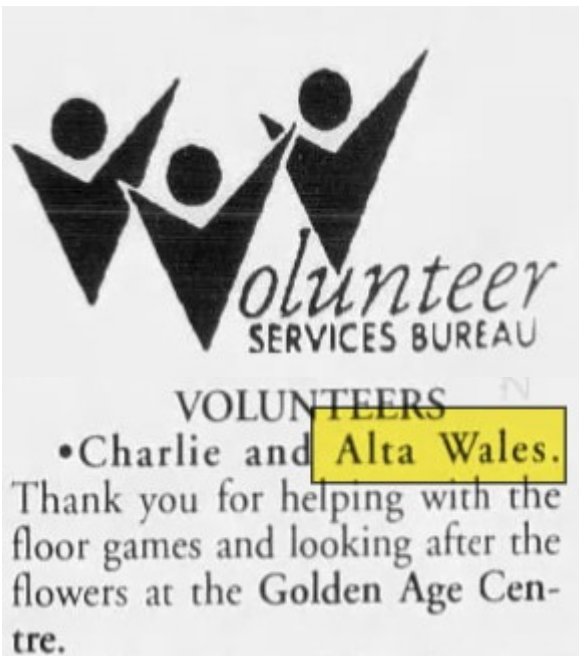
*at the*

**Grande Prairie Senior  
Center, 1-4:40pm.**

**Adults only**

**No gifts please**

*We look forward to seeing  
you. The Wales family.*



•Charlie and Alta Wales.

Thank you for helping with the floor games and looking after the flowers at the Golden Age Centre.

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# The quintessential pioneer

## Elizabeth Moon typified the spirit of the settlers

DEBI RUHL  
Herald-Tribune staff

Elizabeth Moon was a classic pioneer woman.

She and her family are being honored at the Grande Prairie Museum as the pioneer family of the month on Sunday afternoon.

She was born in 1864 as Elizabeth Ann McPhee and came to Canada from Scotland.

She married Charles Rolling Moon in 1880 in Orillia, Ontario. Rolling was 22; Elizabeth just 16.

They were blessed with nine children.

Rolling's untimely death in 1904 brought about great changes for Elizabeth.

She decided to pack up and make the move to Edmonton with eight of her children.

Their stay in Edmonton ended in 1913 when her children decided once again to move — this time further north.

Elizabeth made the decision to go with them.

Her route took her through Lesser Slave Lake, Grouard and Peace River to Spirit River and then to Grande Prairie.

She settled in the Bezanson area.

She was loved and respected by everyone who knew her and was affectionately called Grandma Moon by both family and friends.

She is often remembered as a woman with a buoyant spirit of adventure.

She passed away in January 1946.

"She was a very kind person," recalls grandson Alfred Wales.

"What I remember the most



Charlie Wales (left), Jean Rockarts, Neil Moon, Alf Wales, Alice Valgardson, and Gordon Moon.

about her was that she tried to help anyone who needed help."

Gordon Moon, the son of Elizabeth's eldest son, remembers her love of family.

"Grandma Moon always liked to have family near her.

"If you went to a picnic or a social function she always had the little kids around her.

"It's amazing, considering she had nine children, but she was always calm. She never got too upset about anything.

"She was a wonderful woman." According to another grandson,

Charles Wales, Grandma Moon was a midwife in the area for years and cooked meals in the hospital. Moon's grandsons enjoyed the simple life.

"We lived in the bush and there were horses to get from one place to another," said Alfred.

"I enjoyed it, but I was just a kid and I didn't know any different."

"You couldn't go anywhere unless you walked or rode," said Wales.

"There were no roads, just trails. There were trails through her yard and ours."

The memories of Elizabeth Moon still live on in the hearts of those who knew her and are being passed on to those who didn't.

"It took a lot of courage for her to come up here with no husband and nine children," said Gordon.

"But it is that type of pioneer spirit that helped build this country.

"We hear so many stories about the pioneer men that got the Peace Country started, but very little about the pioneer women.

"Grandma Moon was the epitome of that pioneer spirit."

# Pioneer spirit not lost on the Wales

Local family endured its share of hardships while settling in the area

**BILL LAYE**  
Herald-Tribune staff

Early in the century, the Wales family was lured up to the Peace Country from Edmonton on the promise there would be a rail service out here within a year.

But it was four years before the trains came.

"You couldn't send anything out, the grain had to be used here," said Charles Wales, 84.

The family made do bartering with neighbours and living off what the land produced.

"You didn't expect as much in those days," added his sister Elizabeth McLaughlin, 80.

In 1912, their father Ross Wales, 24 at the time, packed up his belongings and, with his new bride Anna in tow, hit the Edson Trail. They were the first of the family to come to and settle in the Glen Leslie area, about 20 kilometres east of Grande Prairie.

When he got there, he filed for a quarter-section of land for himself and one for his father.

"They were only allowed a quarter-section (each)," Charles noted.

The couple made a fairly decent living growing oats and raising some cattle, he added.

They also started their family of four children on the homestead: their first, Alfred was born in 1913, followed by Charles in 1914, John in 1916, and their only daughter Elizabeth in 1919.

Once settled, Ross built a two-story log house and a barn, and the main road — such as it was — from Bezanson to Grande Prairie ran between the two buildings.

The house became somewhat of a landmark on the trip, with no shortage of weary visitors stopping to rest.

McLaughlin recalls a story her mother told her about a native family which stayed at the house one night. The family camped out on the living room floor.

By morning, the visitors had made new beaded moccasins for all the Wales children as payment for their hospitality.

A year after Ross arrived, his father and mother, Alfred and Alice, joined him.

The elder Waleses moved in with the couple while their own house was being built.

When the railroad finally came in 1916 there were new opportunities, but trade between neighbours was still common.

"There were two bachelors just west of us (who) would bring us 200 pounds of flour," Charles remembers.

His mother would bake half for them and half for her family.

In the '30s, barter was about the only way people did business, because no one had any money, he said.

Pioneer life had its fair share of hazards, he added.

In the winter of 1914, Ross was hauling a load of timber across a frozen lake.

Unfortunately, the ice was a little too thin. His horses — wagon and all — cracked the ice, fell into the frigid water and were lost.

"He had to walk back to Edson to buy more horses," said Charles.

Other concerns for the homesteader were mosquitoes, water, and fire.

One of the first orders of business was to dig a protective fire cutline around the property.

Sometimes that wasn't enough, though.

Alfred Wales lost his barn to a grassfire in 1916. Charles, two at the time, can still remember seeing his grandfather's hands bandaged up from burns received fighting the blaze.

Of course, getting to school wasn't as easy as it is today, either.

They had to walk about three kilometres to the Glen Leslie Presbyterian Church, which also served



The Wales family is being honoured Sunday as the Pioneer Family of the month for August at the Grande Prairie Museum. From left to right, family representatives Neil Moon, Charles Wales, Elizabeth McLaughlin, and Marguerite Laverick.

Photo: Bill Laye

as the community centre then, Charles said.

They both agree, by comparison, life today is a snap.

"Nothing to it," Charles said.

"Push a button."

"Back then, you hedged a trail through the bush and now they want four lanes," laughed Elizabeth.

"When (the pioneers) first came,

they just brushed a piece of land and set up a tent while they built their log house."

The Wales family is being honoured Sunday as the Pioneer Family of the Month at the Grande Prairie Museum in Muskosepeki Park.

The Heritage Day festivities get under way Sunday at 1 p.m. in the park and run until 5 p.m.

# Volunteers: Ordinary people, extraordinary hearts

By April Weavell

**E**ighty-six year old Charlie Wales and his wife Alta, who recently celebrated her 89th birthday, approach their volunteer work with the same practical work ethic they had as farmers east of Grande Prairie many years ago.

When asked why he volunteered, Charlie promptly and matter-of-factly replied, "Well, it just needs to be done."

Alta seemed to share his outlook. Though she was quick to talk about her husband's generosity, it was Charlie who reminded her of the many times she tended to the flowers at the Golden Age Centre. A little embarrassed, Alta responded, "Oh, well, if I saw a weed, I picked it." In fact, each spring she helped plant over 200 geraniums around the building, and each fall helped bring them indoors. She also helped with the sewing and in the kitchen.

Since moving to Grande Prairie some 30 years ago, the couple have both served as board and committee members of the seniors' drop-in centre, but have been involved in many other organizations as well. Charlie has given his time to the Grande Prairie Museum and the Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural and Exhibition Society. He is still a part of the Old-timer's Association and said his claim to fame is being the only one born before the railroad came in 1916. He recently offered to sell raffle tickets for the C.N.I.B., another United Way agency, as Charlie is now legally blind, with only slight vision.

Alta said her husband is a real handyman, and used his carpentry and welding skills from the farm to help with maintenance and building around the Centre. Charlie started volunteering at the Centre soon after moving to Grande Prairie when he helped put the roof on the building that stands over Muskoseepi Park.

The couple agreed that the Centre is really important as a place to socialize. They said seniors come from as far away as Rycroft to play cards and games, chat, and participate in sports.

Though the two of them said they don't "do as much around the Centre" as they



Alta Wales, busy on her sewing machine at the Golden Age Centre. Alta and her husband Charlie are just two of the many seniors who volunteered at the seniors drop in centre.

used to, it's not likely their drive to stay active will be any less. Before I left their Swanavon home they built themselves when they moved to the city, Charlie made sure I did not leave empty-handed and gave me two plant-pot stands he recently crafted in his workshop.

And don't be surprised to see him out on the golf course. Charlie golfs two to three times a week, relying on the seniors he golfs with to tell him where his ball lands.

I ask them how far the ball went. If they tell me it's 100 yards or less, I just tell them they've given me the wrong figure," muses Charlie, with a sly smile on his lips.

The Golden Age Centre is one of 18 United Way agencies that relies heavily on volunteers. Donna Conrad, the Centre's office and facility manager, said that United Way dollars go toward operations, but volunteers like the Wales do most of the maintenance work.

Pat Reid, United Way of Grande Prairie and District president, agreed that without volunteers, many agencies, including her own, simply could not exist. She said these are the people that go the extra mile for others, even when it's uphill.

Since most United Way volunteers are only required during the fall campaign and have a clear idea of the length of time they need to give, Reid said her agency is fortunate. She said she finds that because of that short time commitment, these volunteers often walk away feeling energized and ready to put that energy into other volunteer sectors.

Steve Shavers, United Way board chair from 1982-1985 agreed. "It was a busy time and it was very hard work, but it was such a pleasant experience that I have since gone on to involve myself in a wide variety of volunteer pursuits that I hope are for the betterment of our community," said Shavers. "I have always been grateful to the United Way for that opportunity."

Reid also credits the many businesses that contribute to the United Way for giving time to their employees to raise money for the cause. It is the employees, not United Way staff, that run the workplace campaigns, she said.

Each year the United Way depends on about 400 volunteers from across the peace to do jobs ranging from board and committee work, to the actual campaign fund-raising.

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Ron Penney (left), **Charlie Wales** (centre) and Milliet Dumont (right) carpet bowling at the Golden Age Centre.

# Seniors Week

## Wales recalls a safer time

**CRYSTAL RHYNO**

Herald-Tribune staff

**C**harles Wales remembers a time when drivers would pick up hitchhikers along the dusty unpaved roads with no fear for safety.

He remembers when people would help one another without a second thought. Vivid memories spanning nine decades are fodder for long conversations for this lively 93-year-old.

"Years ago on a homestead, everyone helped and there was no questions. Now they don't do that. If you see somebody on a road, you pick them up," he said, in reference to the changing times.

"Now they just drive by. It's not safe. If someone said they would do something, they would do it. Nowadays (people) don't help one another. They are too busy doing something else."

These are sound observations from a perceptive man who has lived through world wars, pandemics and the Great Depression. A retired farmer and construction worker, Wales was born in 1914 in the farming community of Glen Leslie, 19 kilometres east of Grande Prairie. He worked on his family homestead be-



**Senior Charles Wales, 93, has lived in the Peace Country all his life. After retiring in 1968, Wales is often found at the Golden Age Centre or gardening in his backyard.** N

Photo: Crystal Rhyno

fore retiring and moving to Grande Prairie in 1968.

"My brother had two boys and I had five daughters. The two boys wanted to farm so I sold them my farm," he explained.

After making the move to city life, Wales instantly made a name for himself as an energetic citizen who helped others. He has been a volunteer with the Golden Age Centre, the Seniors Outreach Program, the Pioneer Museum and countless other organiza-

tions for 40 years.

These days he has slowed down but on most mornings he can be found at the Golden Age Centre playing floor curling or carpet bowling. That's if he's not watering his garden or building trivets in his garage for his friends. Wales developed macular degeneration 10 years ago and is considered legally blind. Still, it doesn't hold him back from walking 30 minutes five days a week to the senior community centre.

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# WALES

... Continued from front

"You gotta keep busy and it's a good place," he said, with a mischievous smile.

"I never golfed or anything until I was over 60. You know I can't see the ball so they let me play for free. They figured I can't see the ball anyway so I might as well play at night."

Wales is one of four children born to parents Ross and Annie Wales. Relocating from Edmonton in the late 1800s, the couple came north to build both a home and a family.

"In the '30s, you couldn't move; there was no money," he said. "If you were on the farm, you had a job. There was no need of moving, there weren't any other jobs in any other places. And once you get started, you couldn't move."

On the homestead, the Wales family raised cattle and horses. They eventually moved into operating sawmills.

When his parents died, Wales and his brother, Alfred, took over the farm. Wales married twice; first to Jennette Anderson in 1940 for 25 years until her death in 1965; then in 1966 to widower Alta Peterson until her death in 2004. He has five daughters with his first wife, all of whom live in Alberta.

He has six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



# **Charles Wales**

*will be celebrating his*

**95<sup>th</sup> Year**

**Sunday, July 19**

*Friends, family & neighbours are  
invited to join him in his garden  
for cake & refreshments*

**1pm - 4pm · 10119-94 Ave  
(780) 532-8794**

*No gifts please*