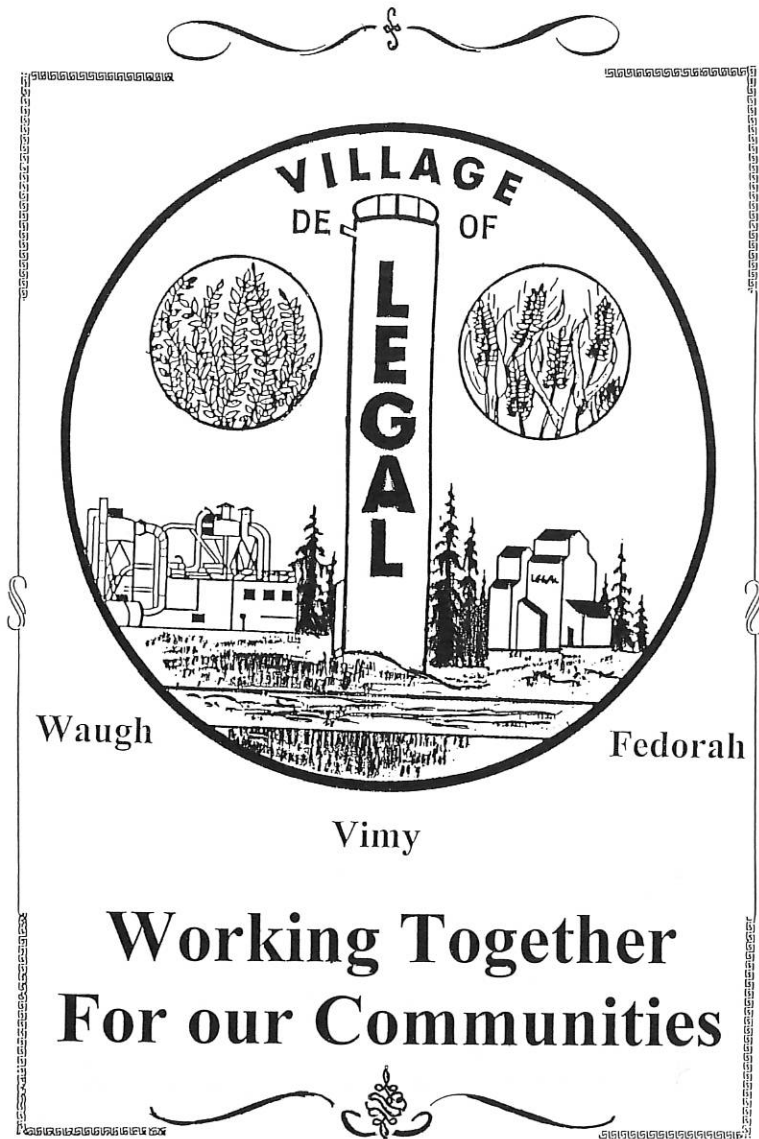


# Chapter 7

## GOUVERNEMENTS / GOVERNMENTS

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Village of/de Legal

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## LOCAL

### VILLAGE DE LEGAL

par Raymond Tremblay

Vers la fin du 18<sup>e</sup> et au début du 19<sup>e</sup> siècle de nombreux colons vinrent dans les régions de l'Ouest canadien pour acquérir des "homesteads" et se lancer dans l'agriculture dans un nouveau territoire qui semblait si prometteur. Parmi eux, nous y reconnaissons les noms de Gelot et Ménard, deux braves pionniers, qui arrivaient de la Californie pour cultiver le sol riche et fertile de la région de Legal. C'était l'année 1894, le tout début de la colonisation de la région.

Sous peu, bien d'autres colons vinrent s'unir aux premiers arrivés, dans l'espérance de faire fortune dans ce beau pays et en 1899, la première chapelle fut construite. Ce jeune peuple, riche de la Foi de leurs ancêtres, voulait conserver sa religion et même la répandre dans ce nouveau monde. Il ne faut pas oublier de mentionner ici les efforts constants de l'abbé Morin dans le domaine de la colonisation qui aurait été beaucoup plus lente sans son action.

En 1912, avec l'arrivée du chemin de fer, la première église fut construite et déjà on y comptait bon nombre de paroissiens tels les familles Morin, Pouliot, Demers, Lalonde, Perras, Bolduc, Marcotte, Duchesneau, Bouclin, Létourneau, Bachand, Garneau, Bouchard, Buckoski, Belley, Vincent, Casavant, Fortin, Baert, Potvin, Coulombe, Ringuette, Trudel, Tieulié, Calage, St-

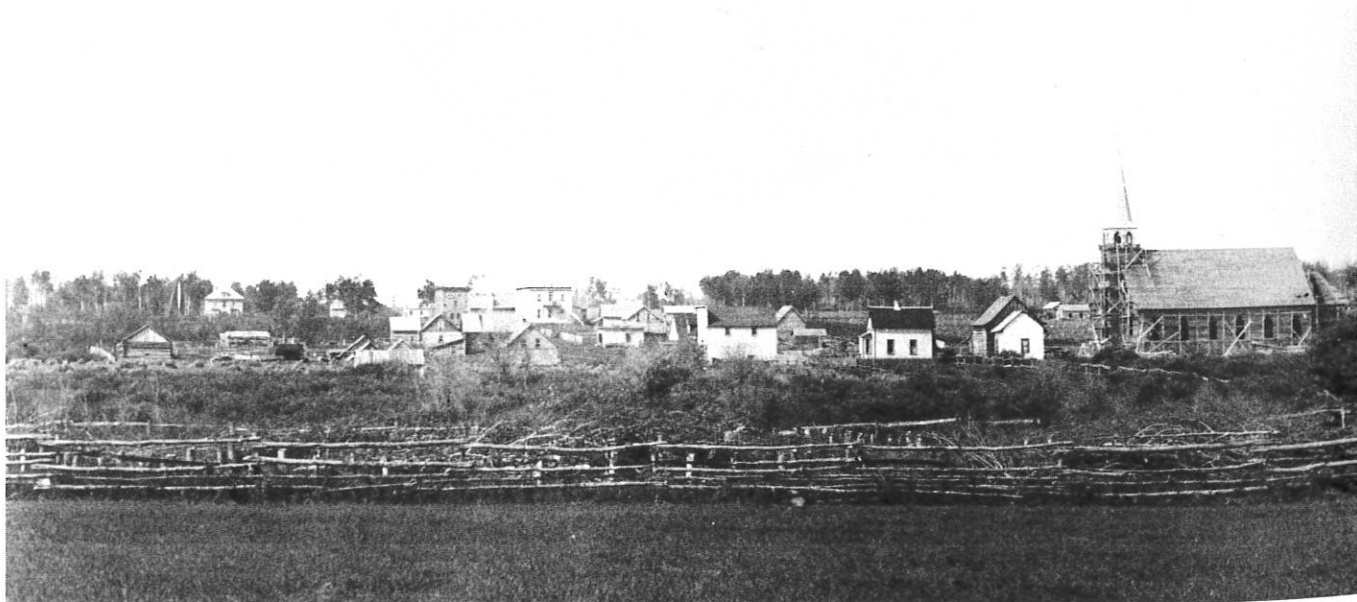
Martin et Beaumchen. En 1914, Legal devint village.

Dans ce petit document d'histoire, nous voulons vous donner quelques grandes lignes des activités du conseil du village depuis sa création en 1914. Nous avons mis beaucoup de temps à faire des recherches mais ceci ne veut pas dire qu'il n'y aura pas d'erreurs ni d'omissions. Nous avons voulu choisir les événements qui d'après nous devaient être présentés dans un livre historique et nous espérons que le tout saura vous plaire. Nous avons donc décidé, pour vous rendre la lecture de ce texte plus agréable et plus facile à suivre, de diviser notre ouvrage sous les catégories suivantes: 1. Gouvernement 2. Services 3. Accomplissements 4. Points d'intérêts 5. Listes des maires et conseillers.

### GOVERNEMENT

Le 20 février 1914, Legal devint officiellement le Village de Legal. Le premier conseil consistait d'un maire, Téléphore St-Arnaud, et de deux conseillers. Les archives nous indiquent qu'en 1915, Ménéippe Massie était maire. Les noms des deux conseillers nous sont inconnus.

Comme toute autre forme de gouvernement, le conseil du village se mit vite à faire des ordonnances et des lois pour ses citoyens. Une première ordonnance (by-law), traitant des évaluations de terrains en vue de la taxation, ne



Village de Legal en 1910

fut jamais passée mais quelque temps après, une autre ordonnance traitant des taxes sur les places d'affaires ou commerces, fut passée par le conseil. En voici quelques échantillons.

<i>Epicerie</i>	5\$	<i>Huile et peinture</i>	5\$
<i>Barbier</i>	5\$	<i>Boucher</i>	5\$
<i>Garages</i>	5\$	<i>Boulangerie</i>	5\$

Il est intéressant de lire qu'un système d'amendes existait pour punir ceux qui ne se soumettaient pas aux ordonnances. Pour une liste plus complète consultez la version anglaise de ce texte.

Pour ceux qui aiment les animaux domestiques, vous serez peut-être surpris d'apprendre qu'à l'époque il était aussi coûteux d'avoir une chienne que de partir un commerce. Pour obtenir la permission d'avoir une chienne il fallait que le propriétaire débourse 5\$ par année, donc une somme d'argent aussi grosse qu'un permis pour une place d'affaires. Il existait à l'époque plusieurs règlements concernant les animaux domestiques. Il faut dire qu'on pouvait voir dans les rues du village ou dans les cours des maisons bien des animaux qu'on ne voit pas dans nos villages d'aujourd'hui, entre autres des chevaux, des moutons, des ânes, des vaches, en plus des nombreux chats et chiens. Il fallait nécessairement faire des lois.

Avec les années, la communauté continua de s'agrandir et il vint un temps où le village dut

embaucher des employés. En 1936, une heure de travail coûtait 25¢ à l'employeur. Nous n'avons pas d'information sur les salaires des conseillers au début mais en 1953 (ordonnance #145) un conseiller recevait la somme de 3\$ pour une réunion du conseil. En 1958, l'honoraire fut élevé à 6\$ par réunion. Peut-être est-ce là le début de l'inflation? Par contre, un employé du conseil recevait un salaire de 12,50\$ par mois. Il faut dire que les procès-verbaux des réunions ne précisent pas s'il s'agit d'un salaire à temps plein, mais il est très probable que tel était le cas. Le secrétaire recevait un salaire mensuel de 17\$. En 1936, encore à l'époque des chevaux, on payait au propriétaire 10¢ par cheval pour faire du travail. En 1949, le salaire de secrétaire s'élevait à 40\$ par mois, plus une commission de 5% sur les taxes en arriéré qu'il collectait. En 1949, le village embauchait son premier contre-maître dans la personne de Raoul St-Jean. Son salaire était de 125\$ par mois.

En 1964, avec l'ordonnance #273, le conseil du village augmentait ses membres de 3 à 5. Ce nombre est encore le même qu'aujourd'hui. En 1965, il fut décidé que dorénavant, les rues seraient identifiées par des numéros plutôt que des noms . . . sans doute pour rendre la vie plus facile aux touristes.

#### SERVICES:

Une des raisons d'être de tout gouvernement est de procurer à ses citoyens les services dont ils ont besoin. En lisant les procès-verbaux des

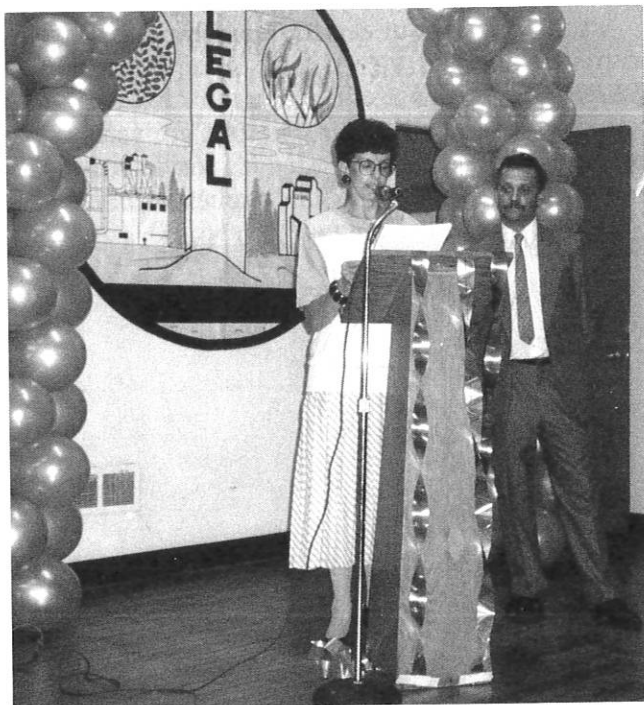


Ouverture officielle de l'édifice municipal de Legal, 1964



Village of Legal Municipal Office

réunions du conseil de Legal il est évident que les conseillers n'ont en aucun temps tenté de dérober à cette responsabilité. Que ce soit la construction de trottoirs dans les années 1930, ou l'acquisition de services médicaux dans les 1940, ou encore la marche vers la bonne eau potable dans les 1970 et 1980, le conseil a toujours fait preuve de compétence. Les quelques paragraphes qui suivent tenteront de vous démontrer le travail ardu des conseillers dans le domaine des services.



Agnes Montpetit, secrétaire et administratrice du Village de Legal pendant 22 ans et l'ancien maire de Legal, Tom Laberge

#### *Services Médicaux:*

Avant l'arrivée des laiteries modernes avec leurs facilités pour traiter le lait, les gens de Legal se procuraient leur lait des fermiers de la région. Pour s'assurer que le lait soit de bonne qualité, le

conseil passa une ordonnance exigeant qu'un vétérinaire soit embauché pour examiner les vaches laitières afin de déterminer leur état de santé. Aussi le village imposa certains règlements déterminant les standards à suivre par les fermiers afin de vendre du lait au village. Le conseil, à maintes reprises, a démontré un intérêt humanitaire pour ses citoyens. En 1935, il vota pour l'achat d'un boeuf afin d'offrir aux gens qui requièrent de l'assistance publique durant ces années difficiles, un peu de viande pour mettre sur la table. En terme de soins médicaux, Legal accueillit son premier médecin tôt après la première guerre mondiale; il s'agit du docteur Amyotte. Il fut suivi par les docteurs Genest, Riopel, Fournier, Dumaine, Whissell et plus récemment par les docteurs qui opèrent à l'intérieur de l'Associate Medical Clinic. La première clinique à Legal fut ouverte par le Docteur Whissell durant les années 1940.

#### *Les Utilités:*

Un an après l'incorporation du village de Legal, les gens de Legal reçurent en 1915 leur service de téléphone. Il existait en 1885 une ligne de téléphone qui se rendait à St-Albert, via Edmonton. Quelques années plus tard l'abbé Morin, qui avait auparavant travaillé pour une compagnie de télégraphe, entreprit de construire sa propre ligne de téléphone de St-Albert à Morinville. Après avoir obtenu les matériaux nécessaires du gouvernement, il se mit à l'oeuvre et en 1895, le tout était terminé. La ligne était identifiée comme la "People's Line". Ce n'était maintenant qu'une question de temps avant que la ligne se rende à Legal. En fait, en 1904, Legal reçut sa première ligne de téléphone. Le service était limité, mais il n'était plus nécessaire de courir à Morinville pour faire ses appels téléphoniques. En 1915, un service central de téléphone fut mis en place à Legal, ce qui voulait dire que maintenant les gens pouvaient se procurer le service à domicile. Armand Fauteux fut le premier maître de la Centrale de Téléphone. Il fut suivi par Louis Genest, A. Boisvert, Germaine Mullen et Yvonne Régimbald. En janvier 1968, la centrale de téléphone fut fermée en faveur du système moderne, tel que nous le connaissons aujourd'hui.

Le conseil du village entreprit ensuite des négociations avec Calgary Power pour emmener l'électricité à Legal. En août 1928, par l'ordonnance #20, le village complétait une entente avec Calgary Power pour l'installation du service. Il y a bien peu dans les procès-verbaux du village au sujet de ce service, sauf qu'en 1934, le conseil, pour des

raisons financières, décida d'éliminer le service de lumières dans les rues du village jusqu'à ce que les arrérages soient tous payés. Il faut croire que ce n'était pas toujours facile de procurer les services aux gens. En 1953, le village fit un autre grand pas dans le domaine des services. Cette fois ce fut le gaz naturel qui fit son entrée dans le village. L'ordonnance #52, datée du 13 janvier 1953, se lit comme suit: "[...] accorder à North Western Utilities la franchise sur le gaz naturel pour le village de Legal."

#### *L'eau potable:*

Depuis les débuts de la colonisation, la question d'eau potable fut toujours un objet de contention. Plusieurs citoyens avaient leur propre puits, mais d'autres devaient aller chercher de l'eau chez leurs voisins. Vers la fin des années 1940, on commença à parler d'un service commun d'eau potable, en provenance du village. Le projet semblait énorme mais en 1950 un premier puits commun fut creusé pour fournir l'eau au village. Une tour avec un réservoir fut érigée et déjà plusieurs citoyens s'abonnèrent au service commun. En 1953, un deuxième puits fut creusé pour pourvoir à la demande croissante d'eau potable. Ce n'est qu'en 1958 qu'il fut nécessaire de regarder à d'autres sources d'eau, la demande étant devenue tellement élevée que les puits ne pouvaient plus suffir. C'est alors qu'un énorme réservoir fut creusé au sud-est du village en 1958. En 1966, un deuxième réservoir vint s'ajouter au premier et tout semble indiquer que dorénavant l'eau fut en quantité suffisante. Cependant, il existait encore un sérieux problème; l'eau des champs environnants n'étant pas traitée, elle était souvent très désagréable. Aussi, dépendant totalement du montant de précipitation pour fournir l'eau aux réservoirs, le village se vit en risque de manquer d'eau à maintes reprises. En fait, vers la fin des années 1970, le village dut improviser une pipeline afin de transporter une quantité d'eau du Lac des Oeufs pour pourvoir à ses besoins. En 1980, pour éliminer ce problème, une pipeline permanente fut construite, unissant le Canal Manawan au réservoir d'eau à Legal. Quelques années auparavant, le village avait entrepris des démarches pour la construction d'un plant de purification d'eau. Par 1978, ce plant était terminé et finalement Legal avait de la bonne eau à boire. En 1989, Legal et Morinville s'entendirent sur la construction d'une pipeline entre Legal et Morinville. Morinville, à ce temps-là, s'était déjà joint à Edmonton, ce qui veut dire qu'avec la

nouvelle pipeline, Legal recevait maintenant son eau de la ville d'Edmonton. Finalement, en 1993, Legal termina sa marche vers l'eau potable avec la construction d'un autre réservoir, souterrain cette fois, et un plant de traitement d'eau tout à fait moderne, situé au sud de Legal.



Ouverture officielle du plant de traitement d'eau et du réservoir souterrain, bâtis en 1993

#### *Service de Police:*

Dès les premières années, le conseil du village a dû s'occuper à faire respecter ses lois et ses ordonnances. Cependant, notre recherche indique que le village n'eut aucun système policier avant le début des années 1950 lorsque Raoul St-Jean fut embauché pour remplir ce poste important. Il y avait certainement un système de quelque sorte avant, puisque même au début des années 1920, on parle dans les procès-verbaux d'amendes et de punitions pour ceux qui ne se conforment pas aux règlements. Les amendes n'étaient certes pas très grandes, selon les standards d'aujourd'hui, puisqu'un excès de vitesse coûtait à l'époque la somme de 1\$. En fait, la majorité des offenses entraînaient une amende de 1\$ mais cela suffisait pour maintenir l'ordre dans le village.

#### *Service de pompiers:*

La protection des citoyens contre les incendies fut, dès les débuts, une priorité pour le conseil du village. On lit à ce sujet dans les procès-verbaux du 15 avril 1927: "Après avoir discuté longuement de la nécessité d'acheter des engins chimiques à incendie pour la protection des propriétés des résidents du village, il fut décidé d'acheter trois

engins chimiques #20 et deux masques contre la fumée de la American LaFrance Fire Co. en argent comptant aux prix suivants: Engin Chimique 112\$ chaque – masques contre la fumée, 3\$ chacun. En 1930, avec l'ordonnance #22, un groupe de pompiers est mis en place et cette fois on leur offre un petit salaire. En 1949, on utilise un vieux camion avec un grand réservoir comme camion citerne. Quatre ans plus tard, en 1953, un premier camion citerne "fait à la maison" est mis en usage et on s'en sert pendant plus de 15 ans. En 1968, un vrai camion citerne est acheté. Il faut dire ici que quelques années plus tôt une caserne de pompiers avait été construite et ce camion neuf faisait un beau décor dans cet nouvel édifice. En 1991, une plus grande caserne pour camions citerne et ambulances fut construite sur la rue principale du village. Un nouveau camion de haute qualité vint se joindre à celui de 1968 et procura aux gens de Legal une protection contre les incendies.

#### *Service d'ambulance:*

Le premier service d'ambulance à Legal nous est arrivé par courtoisie de Connelly-McKinley qui convertit un "station wagon" 1959, en ambulance. Même si nous n'y trouvons pas toutes les choses nécessaires, il va s'en dire que ce service fut très apprécié par les gens de Legal. En 1973, le village acheta une vraie ambulance toute équipée. Aujourd'hui Legal a deux ambulances modernes pleinement équipées avec un personnel qualifié qui fournit un excellent service.

#### *Autres Accomplissements:*

En se promenant dans les rues du village aujourd'hui, il est difficile d'imaginer que les gens qui y vivaient il y a une cinquantaine d'années se



D'autres services: on remplace le pont dans le village de Legal, le 28 septembre 1993, Replacing bridge on main street in the Village of Legal

trouvaient dans la grosse boue après chaque pluie. Les gens du village se trouvèrent fort bien servis lorsque le maire Dr. Whissell fit couvrir de gravier une partie de la rue principale en 1938. En 1979, avec un projet d'une valeur de 1 086 000\$, le conseil fit paver toutes les rues du village.

#### *Centres Sportifs:*

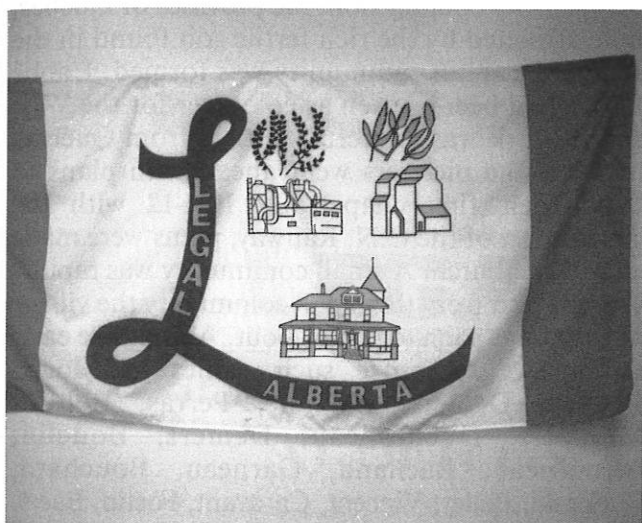
La communauté de Legal a toujours démontré un vif intérêt pour les sports. Quoique petite, elle a souvent formé des équipes championnes. Le baseball et le hockey sont certainement les deux sports qui ont captivé les gens plus que tout autre. De plus, le conseil du village a toujours maintenu de bonnes facilités pour ces sports. En 1967, Legal érigea une aréna comme projet du Centenaire. Plusieurs citoyens ont donné du temps et de l'argent pour réaliser ce magnifique projet. Le tout fut un effort collectif bien réussi. Il faut dire que ce n'était pas la première fois que les gens de Legal unissaient leurs efforts pour se donner quelques comforts ou des établissements sportifs. Au début des années 1950, un petit "curling rink" avec deux surfaces glacées fut construit de la même façon. Nombreux sont les gens qui chérissent encore les heureux moments passés dans ce modeste petit "Curling Rink". En 1976, un magnifique complexe sportif avec glace artificielle et de curling à quatre glaces fut annexé à l'aréna qui existait depuis 1967. Durant les derniers dix ans, plusieurs terrains de baseball furent construits et Legal continue toujours de démontrer un intérêt dans les sports.

#### *Le Château et les Villas:*

En plus de s'occuper des jeunes de la communauté avec ses facilités sportives ou autres, le conseil du village n'a pas oublié ceux qui, par leurs efforts et contributions, sont sans doute responsables pour les nombreux services dont nous jouissons aujourd'hui. En effet, en 1962, un confortable logis pour les aînés est construit sur le terrain au nord du site de l'école. Ce même logis est agrandi dans les années 1970 et peut maintenant pourvoir aux besoins de la communauté. En 1987 et 1990, deux autres logis furent construits à courte distance du ravin au sud-est du village, pour les personnes d'âge d'or qui peuvent encore prendre soin de leurs maisons mais ne peuvent pas entretenir une cour. Grâce à tous ces services, la majorité de nos aînés peuvent demeurer dans leur milieu familial et vivre paisiblement dans un confort qu'ils ont bien mérité.

### La salle communautaire:

Legal, au cours des années, a eu quelques salles communautaires et paroissiales, mais on en parle très peu dans les procès-verbaux du village ou autres ressources que nous avons explorées. En 1948, dans les procès-verbaux du village, il est question d'achat d'un hangar pour usage communautaire, et en 1934, de frais à payer pour se servir de la salle. La salle qui existe encore date de 1949, alors que le village accorda un permis à Arthur Lamarche pour construire une salle de danse qui servirait aussi pour la projection de films animés. Cette salle appartient maintenant au village et est encore en usage quoique des renovations soient souvent nécessaires.



Flag of the Village of Legal on the occasion of the Village's 75th anniversary, July 29, 1989 – designed by Marie St. Jean  
Le drapeau du Village de Legal – une création de Marie St. Jean

Voir liste des maires, secrétaires-trésoriers et conseillers à la fin du texte anglais)

### Points d'intérêts:

- Novembre 1912, l'abbé Normandeau fait installer le téléphone au presbytère.
- 16 juillet 1913, M. Lamarre fait installer un nouveau système d'eau froide et d'eau chaude avec vapeur pour son hôtel.
- Docteur Genest ouvre son bureau à Legal (*Courrier de l'Ouest, 1913*)
- Pépère Delphis Coulombe, agissant de dentiste amateur, tirait des dents dans le village de Legal. Il ne se faisait jamais payer pour ses services, mais insistait qu'on récite le chapelet pour les âmes en purgatoire. Dr Genest lui montra comment soulager un patient dont la mâchoire "crampait".

- Legal reçoit la visite d'un dentiste du vendredi au lundi (*Courrier de l'Ouest, 1913*)

- Le 12 août 1909, une fête sportive eut lieu au gros magasin de Ménéippe Massie. Les dames ont préparé le repas, Gédéon Demers est en charge des tables et comptoirs, Pierre Provost et Eugène Ménard, des jeux et amusements, Joseph A. Bruyère et Ménéippe Massie voient à l'achat des fruits et autres comestibles. L'argent fait à la fête est employé à commencer les travaux de construction d'église aussitôt que possible après l'approbation de Monseigneur Legal.

- Legal est devenu un village le 20 février 1914.

- 1917, les femmes de l'Alberta sont les premières Canadiennes à pouvoir voter dans une élection provinciale.

- La Salle paroissiale bâtie en 1917-1918 servait chaque automne pour le "School Fair" et aussi pour les assemblées des syndics, des paroissiens et de soirées paroissiales.

- 1924, Legal connaît un fléau de chenilles.

- Après la visite paroissiale de l'abbé Goutier en 1930, la population du village est de 435 personnes et de 1176 à la campagne.

- Le 7 juillet 1934, le conseil vota en faveur d'un premier "Stampede Day" pour Legal (Daté le 1er août).

- La première charrue à neige de Legal fut achetée d'Octave Préfontaine en 1935 pour 6\$.

- Les procès-verbaux du village de Legal étaient écrits en français jusqu'en 1939.

- 13 juillet 1946, une procession d'automobiles



Welcome to – Bienvenue à Legal sign at the west entrance of the village

envahit Legal; c'est une délégation française venue de Montréal pour visiter l'Ouest canadien.

- Le "vieux presbytère" périt dans les flammes le 27 octobre 1947.
- En 1948, le village ouvrit un compte de banque à la Banque de Nova Scotia.
- Legal a déjà été connu comme "Moonshine Valley" (savez-vous pourquoi?).
- En janvier 1952, entrée en vigueur de la Pension de Vieillesse du Canada.
- 1953, il y a une épidémie de polio à Legal.
- En janvier 1966, entrée en vigueur du Plan de Pension du Canada.
- En 1991, le vieux réservoir à eau devint un étang à poissons et un parc municipal fut construit autour de l'étang.
- En mai 1993, la population du village de Legal est de 945.
- Legal est situé à 48 kilomètres au nord d'Edmonton et à trois kilomètres à l'est de la grande route #2.
- Il y a un service d'autobus Greyhound quotidien entre Legal et Edmonton.

## DOCTORAT HONORIFIQUE/HONORARY DOCTORATE

Pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'Université de l'Alberta, une convocation spéciale a eu lieu à l'église St-Emile de Legal le 3 juin 1978. M. Georges Bugnet, âgé de 99 ans, recevait à cette occasion, un Doctorat Honorifique en loi.

*June 3, 1978 Georges Bugnet (aged 99) received*



Georges Bugnet à la sortie de l'église de Legal après la présentation de son Doctorat Honorifique en Loi le 3 juin 1978, Dr. Myer Horowitz (vice-président, U of A), Dr. Edward Bolodgett, Eric Geddes (Chairman, Board of Governors), Bishop Raymond Roy, Chancellor R.N. Dalby, Hon. Horst Schmid

*an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the University of Alberta in St. Emile church.*

## THE VILLAGE OF LEGAL

by Raymond Tremblay

Towards the end of the 18th century and at the beginning of the 19th century, settlers from the United States, the eastern provinces of Canada and even Europe, started to work their way westward to eventually take homesteads in the region now known as Legal. Among the earliest settlers were Théodore Gelot and Eugène Ménard. Both of these gentlemen came from France via California searching for homesteads. In 1894, they started homesteading in the Legal area. Soon many others, the majority coming from the province of Québec, were attracted by the rich fertile soil found in the area and a small community was formed. L'abbé Morin had been chosen as colonizer for the West and his task was to recruit settlers from Québec. In 1889, the pioneers went ahead with plans to build their first chapel. By 1911-12 with the completion of the C.N. Railway, plans were made to build a church. A small community was rapidly growing and from this small community the village of Legal was soon to come about. Among the early settlers we recognize such names as Morin, Pouliot, Demers, Lalonde, Perras, Bolduc, Marcotte, Duchesneau, Demers, Bouclin, Létourneau, Bachand, Garneau, Bouchard, Buckoski, Belley, Vincent, Casavant, Fortin, Baert, Potvin, Coulombe, Ringuette, Baumchen, Tieulié, Calage, St-Martin. In 1914, in fact, the Hamlet of Legal officially became "The Village of Legal". At about the same time many businesses started and the village council soon had an important role to play in terms of the governance in the village.

The following account will not attempt to give you a detailed description of all the activities of the council, neither will it attempt to give you a detailed history of the council. A tremendous amount of time was devoted to researching, but the possibility of errors or omissions is certainly possible. In many instances we have found the records to be incomplete and at times, contradictory. We have avoided to include any events which we could not support with a minimum of evidence. The purpose of this article is simply to highlight some of the main activities of the council.

In dealing with the Council of the Village of Legal, we chose to categorize its main activities under the following headings: 1. Governance 2. Services 3. Major accomplishments 4. Matters of



N.W. 27 27 N.E. 27  
S.W. 27 S.E. 27

1252'

N. 89°-39'

Examined and Approved  
May 14th 1913  
W.W. Hopkins

248' 25'

1136  
May 1906  
13  
a  
14  
223

File 1402



System of Subdivision  
& registration on  
Nov 30th 1912  
May 15 1913

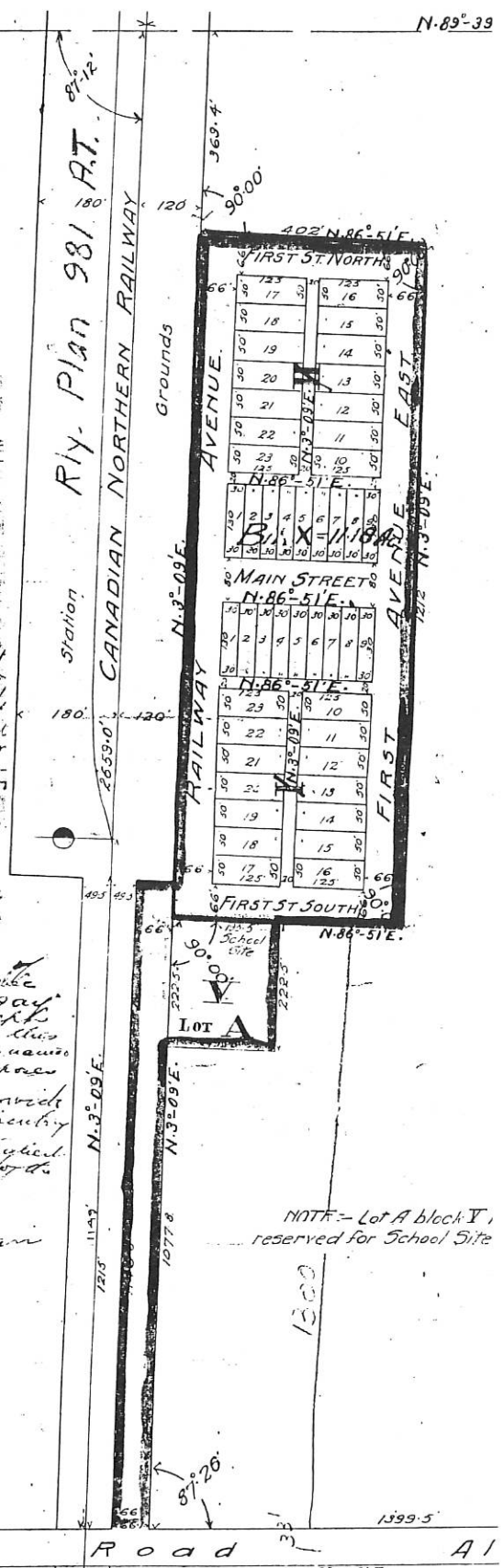
# LEGAL

A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF  
THE S.E. 1/4 SEC. 27, TP 57, RGE 25, W. 4 M.

## ALBERTA

Canada } I William Th. Cormier of the village  
Province of } Horrids in the Province of Quebec  
Quebec }  
I, that I was personally present and did see, read &  
acknowledge before me, Robert Lewis Justice, in this  
Province, who in presence of me, and in the presence of  
James D. Harkin and Ernest Horrids for the purposes  
of the said laws, executed at the village of Horrids  
under the name of Quebec and that said certificate  
of the said laws, the said Robert Lewis Justice, English  
Justice of the Peace and Clerk of the Court in my belief of the  
said laws, on the 31st day of the month of  
December 1912.

J. D. Person  
Notary Public in and for  
the Province of Quebec



NOTE - Lot A block Y,  
reserved for School Site

S.W. 27 SE. 27 Government Road A1  
N.W. 22 NE. 22

W. Th. Cormier

Done

This was a proposed Plan for the site of Legal in the year 1913 A.D. but it was never incorporated because apparently the water-table was too high



Village of Legal in 1912; sawmill is on the right



Rémi Baert's General Store in the 1920's

general interest 5. Lists of people who served on council along with the mayors over the years.

### GOVERNANCE:

It was during the winter of 1914, at the beginning of the war, that The Village of Legal became a reality. The exact date was February 20, 1914. The first Village Council was formed the same year and consisted of a reeve, Télesphore St. Arnaud, and two councillors. Records indicate that in 1915, Ménéippe Massie was the reeve of the council with Romuald Rouleau as secretary-treasurer. We also do not know who the third party was as we could not come across that information in our research.

As for all other governments, it became essential for the new council to raise a few dollars on an annual basis in order to operate. A first by-law, By-law #1, dealing with the assessment and taxation of land, was brought forward but for some unknown reasons was never passed. Shortly thereafter a second money by-law was introduced and this time, on May 25, 1921, it was passed. The By-law provided for the levying of a business tax within the village on all trades, professions and businesses as per schedule.

Grocery store	\$5.00	Oils and paint	\$5.00
Dry goods	\$5.00	Furniture	\$5.00
Refreshment parlors	5.00	Butcher shops	\$5.00
Barber shops	\$5.00	Pool tables each	\$1.50
Slot machines	\$5.00	Baker shops	\$5.00
Garages	\$5.00	Out of town bread	\$5.00
Implement shops	\$5.00	Blacksmith shops	\$5.00
Hotel Boarding House	\$5.00	Livery stable	\$5.00
Draying	\$5.00	Laundry	\$5.00
Dentists, Lawyers	\$5.00	Real Estate	\$5.00
Doctors, Veterinary	\$5.00	Drug Store	\$5.00
Kindlingwood, coal	\$3.00	Bowling Alley	\$3.00
Wholesale oil & gas	\$10.00		

Failure to comply resulted in a \$5.00 fine and cost imposition by Justice or Justice of the Peace (passed by council May 25, 1921)

It is interesting to note that, in those days, it cost as much in taxes to own a female dog than it cost to operate a business. By-law # 9 was passed on March 17, 1928, to provide for the imposition of a tax on the owner, possessor or borrower of dogs. For each dog, a tax of \$3.00 and for each bitch a tax of \$5.00 was levied for a period of one year and due January 1st of each year.

Along the same lines, it is interesting to note the need for council to pass by-laws restricting pet owners in term of the freedom given to their pet animals. By-law #4 passed in April 1922, required pet owners to clean their lots and yards of rubbish, waste, ashes or manure. Shortly after, on April 29,

1922, By-law # 8 was passed prohibiting domestic animals from running at large. It continues by listing some of the animals in question, that is, horses, asses, mules, cattle, goats, geese and sheep. Can you imagine a village where home owners have cows and horses in their backyards along with a few dogs, cats and other pets? One can easily understand the council's concerns over this situation and its need to legislate.

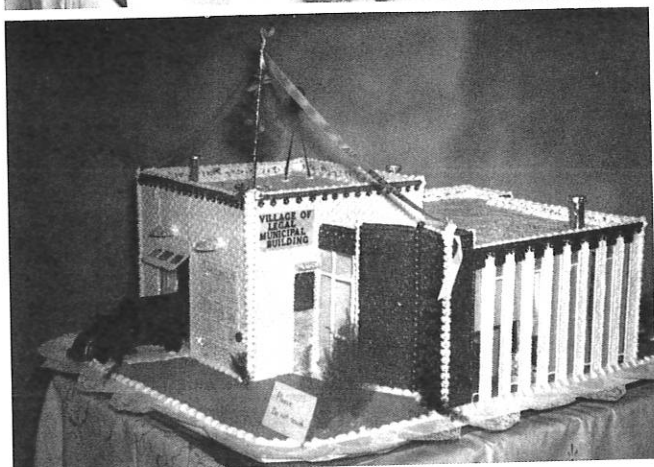
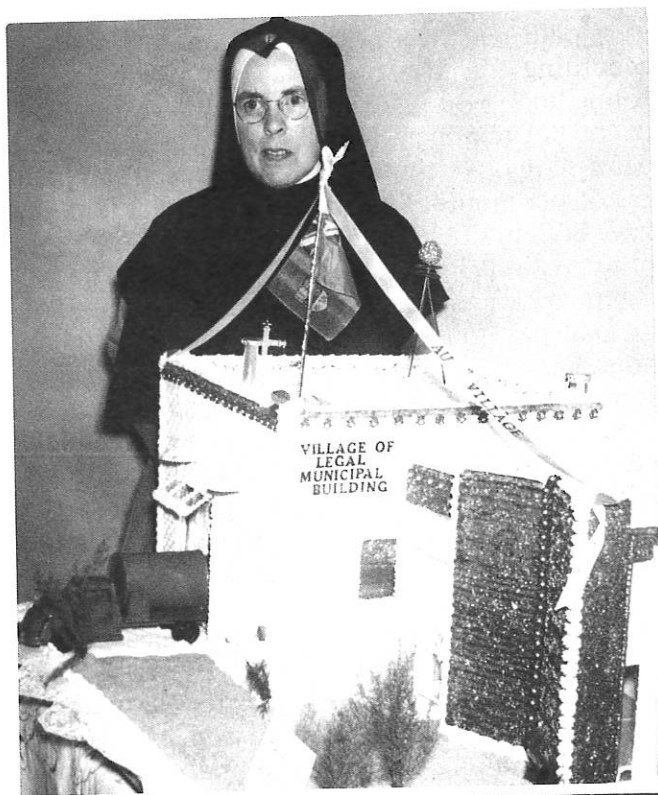
As the community continued to grow, it became essential for the council to hire people to work for the village and wages had to be paid to workers and councillors. In 1936 a man's efforts over one hour was considered to be worth, hear this, 25¢. We do not know how much councillors were paid per meeting at that time but in 1953 according to By-law #145 remuneration to councillors was \$3.00 per meeting. By 1958 councillor remunerations were increased to \$6.00 per meeting. An employee of the council was paid \$12.50 per month. One can imagine what it might have been in the 1920s and 1930s. Again, in terms of wages, in 1936, in the public work's department, a man working with a team of horses collected 45¢ in total per hour. Each horse was worth 10¢ an hour, leaving the man's salary at 25¢ an hour. The secretary was now collecting \$17.00 per month. By 1949 the secretary's salary was upped to \$40.00 per month plus a 5% commission on tax arrears collected by him. What an incentive! In 1949 the village of Legal hired its first town foreman in the person of Ralph St. Jean. His salary was \$125.00 a month.

At the beginning of this essay, I indicated that in the early days of council, with By-law # 1, an attempt was made to raise money for the council. That By-law was never passed. However, somewhere along the way, a similar by-law was obviously put in place. By-law 164, passed in 1954, clearly shows that a sound structure of tax collection had been put in place. For that particular year the tax distribution looked like this:

- 14 mills on the dollar for municipal purposes
- 31 mills on the dollar for school purposes.
- 03 mills on the dollar for hospital purposes.

In 1964, By-law #273 authorized the municipal council to increase its number of councillors to 5 from the previous 3. This number is still in effect today. Still in the same spirit of change, council, in 1965, with By-law # 279, decided to do away with street names and replace them with street numbers. Further changes of significance were introduced in May 1982 when, with By-law # 453, the offices of Municipal Secretary and Treasurer

were combined into one office. This was done pursuant to the Municipal Government Act. In July of 1983, with By-law # 457, the village adopted a coat of arms for the village of Legal (Town Logo) representing the water tower with the name "Legal", a small reproduction of the Alfalfa Plant, the elevators with green fir trees, green alfalfa leaves, gold barley serial with green leaves, clouds, lawn, horizontal grey steps and paved avenue. Starting in January 1988, the council decided to change its "By-law" numeration system. It was decided that the new by-laws would start again at one (1) and that the year be written after it, for example, 1-88, 2-88, 3-88, etc.



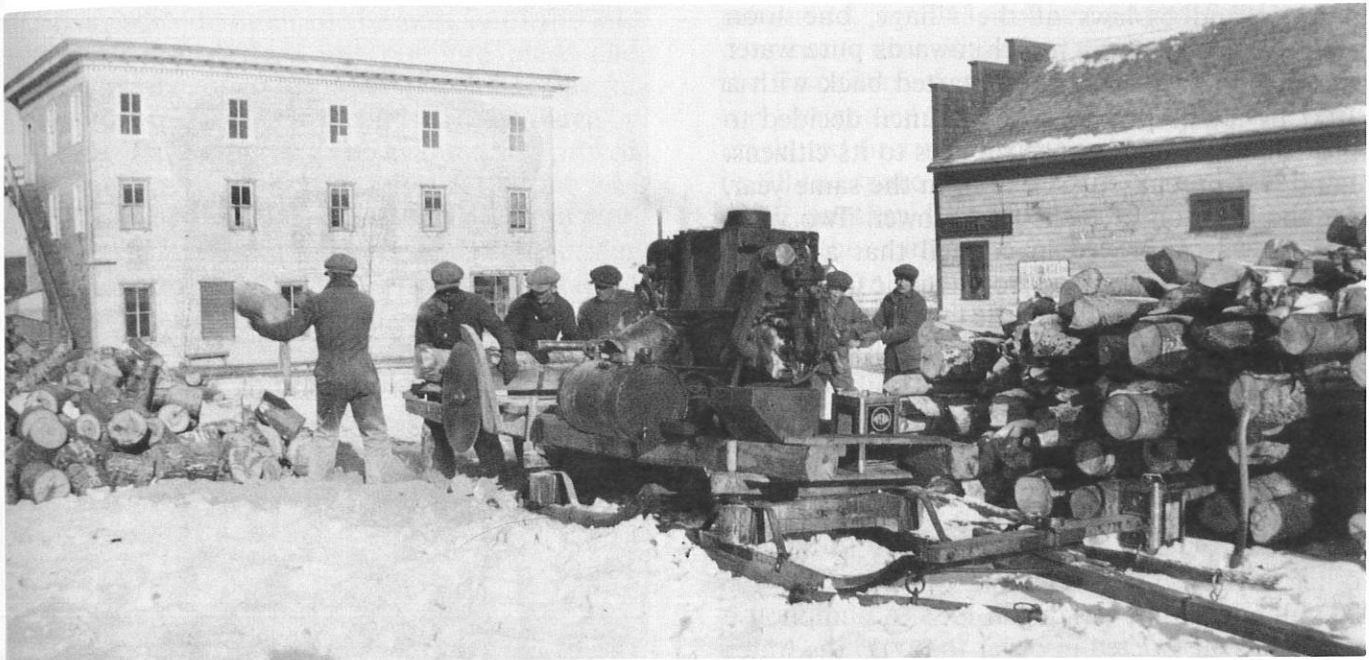
Sister Marie Fortin, s.g.m. with the cake replica she made of the Legal Municipal Building, 1964

## SERVICES:

One of the reasons for government is the provision of services to its community. The municipal council of the village of Legal was fully aware of this responsibility and from the start did not neglect it. As we read the minutes of council over the years, this fact became very obvious from the start. Whether it was the need to provide decent sidewalks to the town in the early years or good drinking water to its citizens in our highly polluted world of today, the village council was always there to look after its people. For example, in the minutes of January 25 and March 2, 1939, council voted in favor of spending over \$400.00 for the construction of good solid sidewalks made of clay and shale to replace the old wooden sidewalks which had become obsolete and dangerous. Further on in this work we will review the arduous work and procedures that eventually lead to Legal having clean pure water to drink.

### *Medical services:*

Before the advent of the modern dairy with all its sterilized equipment and milk treatment facilities, the citizens of Legal were getting their milk supplies from the local farmers who like everyone else, were trying to make ends meet to the best of their abilities, with what they had at hand. To ensure that the milk supply was good, in October 1936 the Village Council hired the services of a veterinarian to inspect the cows of the milk suppliers and established certain standards to be met by the farmers before they would be allowed to sell milk in town. Along the same line, a doctor by the name of Joseph Riopel was appointed health inspector for the town and surrounding area (Board of Health). The council was always very conscious of its people in need. In November 1935, a beef was bought by council to provide meat for those on welfare who could not afford to buy any. This and other kind acts of this nature illustrate the care the council had for its citizens. In terms of medical care it would appear that doctor services were introduced at an early date. Upon talking with one of our senior citizens, it is probably right to believe that the first doctor to practice in Legal would have arrived shortly after the first World War. His name was Amyotte. He, in turn, was followed by Dr. Genest and in the late 1920s early 1930s, and on to the 1940s, Dr. Riopel, Dr. Fournier and Dr. Whissell arrived on the scene. With Doctor Whissell, a medical clinic was opened in Legal. Dr. Léon Dumaine, born and raised in Legal, had a



Jean-Baptiste de Champlain & sons doing woodcutting for people in the Legal area

practice in Legal. Today the Associate Medical Clinic, an offspring of the first clinic, is in operation in Legal.

#### *Utilities:*

Soon after the incorporation of the village of Legal in 1914, the people of Legal were given telephone service. Back in November of 1885, a telephone line existed between Edmonton and the mission in St. Albert. A few years later, in the spring of 1895, l'abbé Morin (a former employee in a telegraph company) scrounged a supply of wire from the government and came out west to build his own telephone line from St. Albert to Morinville. By 1904, talks of extending this line to Legal started to materialize and by November 1904 the Morinville-Legal line was completed. Thus a telephone line now connected Edmonton to Legal, via St. Albert and Morinville. The line became known as the "people's line". In terms of telephone service to the people of Legal, the first "telephone central office" opened in 1915, a year after the incorporation of the town. The first agent (telephone operator) for Legal, Armand Fauteux, was appointed October 1, 1915. At that time, Legal had a local switchboard with an operator who handled all the calls for Legal. Following Armand Fauteux, Legal's Alberta Government Telephone agents included the following: Louis Genest, Ajibe Boisvert, Germaine Mullen and Yvonne Régimbald. Also from Legal, a young lady by the name of Juliette Préfontaine (Montpetit) worked

as a Clerk and Purchasing agent for Alberta Government Telephone starting in February 1965. In 1967, A.G.T. sent Juliette to Expo 67 to work in the A.G.T. pavilion in Montreal. On January 1, 1968 an era came to an end when A.G.T. closed the switchboard in Legal in favor of DIAL telephones.

In August 1928, council entered into an agreement with Calgary Power to supply electricity to the village of Legal (By-law #20). Very little is said in the minutes in terms of electricity for the town other than at one point in 1934, it was agreed by council to discontinue the use of street lights until all arrears were paid. One has to assume that, financially, power proved to be a little stressful for the council at times.

Some 25 years later, in 1953, the village council undertook another project of major importance. This time it consisted of providing the residents of Legal with a very essential commodity, natural gas. January 13, 1953, By-law # 52 read as follows: "[...] to grant North Western Utilities a franchise to supply Natural Gas to the Village of Legal."

#### *Water and sewage:*

The Village of Legal's original supply of water consisted of wells, Legal Creek, spring run-off, the Manawan Canal System and finally, in 1989, a connection to the Regional Water Line at Morinville. A \$1,581,715.85 reservoir and pump-house facility was built in 1993 completing a long awaited project for good water. As one reads the

minutes and by-laws of the village, one soon realizes that this long march towards pure water was not an easy task. It all started back with a 1947 by-law (April 11) when council decided to provide water and sewage services to its citizens. Land was purchased (\$125.00), in the same year, for the location of a shed and tower. Two years later it was approved in council that a 30,000 gallon tank be purchased from Pacific Coast Pipe Co. of Vancouver and that the tank be moved and installed by Stein-Structure. A first well was drilled in 1950 and a good water vein was hit. The well had a capacity of 20 gallons a minute of quality water. In 1953 a second well was drilled, again with a capacity of 20 gallons a minute. With these two wells, the village could keep up with the demand until 1958, when it became necessary to look at other sources. A first reservoir with a capacity for 20 million gallons, was dug in 1958. A pumphouse was also constructed in order to pump the water in a giant wooden tank sitting on top of a large wooden tower situated on the west end of town just north of main street; this water tower is not used today, but it has become a "historical landmark". A second reservoir of 20 million gallons capacity, was added to the first one in 1966. These reservoirs seemed to meet the needs of the town but the product was untreated run-off water which sometimes left plenty to be desired. Also, precipitation being the only means of replenishing the water supply in these reservoirs, it sometimes happened that the water level was dangerously low and the town threatened to run out of water. To solve this problem it became imperative that a water pipeline be constructed, linking the Manawan Canal to the reservoirs. A project which was carried out in 1980. Previous to this, in 1976, the council passed By-law #378 which initiated the procedures leading to the construction of the first water treatment plant. Two years later, By-law # 406 was passed and this one states that the Village of Legal will enter into agreement with the Provincial Government for the installation of a reservoir and water treatment plant. One has to assume that a lot of wheeling and dealing took place during those years in order to get approval for the much needed plant that was soon to be erected. In 1989, further progress was made towards the system we now have. By-law #12-88 initiated negotiation for obtaining city water from Morinville on to Legal. The same year, a pipeline linked Morinville and Legal and finally Legal has plenty of good water for its citizens. In 1993, a new water plant and an underground reservoir was



Legal landmark, 1963: the first reservoir with a capacity of 20,000 gallons of water was dug in 1958. A pumphouse was also constructed in order to pump water in a giant wooden tank sitting on top of a large wooden tower, situated on the west end of town, just north of main street

built south of town to finally end Legal's quest for water.

#### *Policing in Legal:*

Like all other communities in progress, Legal at one point, felt the need to obtain some form of policy enforcing officers to make sure that the by-laws passed in council would in fact be enforced within the community. Law enforcement has been a concern of the village as we can see evidence of it as early as 1922. On April 22 of that year a by-law condemning animals running at large in the village was passed. The minutes do not say anything about a law enforcer at that time, but one has to assume that council must have had some means of control. A 9:00 p.m curfew was also established at a later date and provisions were made to enforce it. The first constable was Ralph

St. Jean who maintained the post until the late 1960's. A set of fines was put into place and speedsters were often hit with a five dollar fine for attempting to save a few seconds across village by speeding. Parking near a fire hydrant also proved to be an expensive decision, as a \$1.00 fine was mercilessly imposed on violators. Failure to stop at a stop sign was also a very condemning behavior and a \$1.00 fine was again the price to pay. Making a U-turn between intersection or parking in a no-parking area also proved very aggravating to the village constable who would immediately give the culprit a heavy \$1.00 fine. Law and order we had in the village, no doubt about it!



Raoul (Ralph) St. Jean, the first police officer, did 17 years of part-time police work in Legal

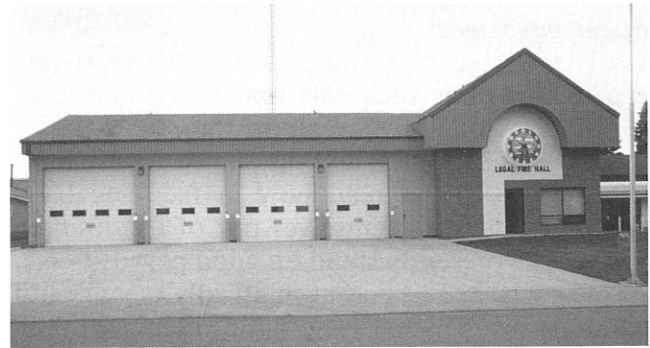
### *Fire Fighting in Legal:*

It goes without saying that fire protection was always a concern for the village council, but prior to 1927, we could not find any mention of it whatsoever. However, in the council meeting minutes of April 15, 1927, one reads that after a lengthy discussion, it was agreed by council to purchase 3 chemical engines # 20, along with two smoke masks, to assist the people who performed the difficult task of fighting fire for the residents of the village and surrounding area. This equipment was purchased on a cash basis from Lafrance Fire Engine Co. at a cost of \$112.50 an engine and \$3.00 per mask. In 1930, the village again reviewed its fire-fighting program and again some changes were carried out. With By-law # 22, a Fire Department along with fire chief and 12 firemen to service the village is put into place. Remunerations were even established within the by-law. In 1949, an old tanker truck was used as a firetruck and in 1953, the first firetruck in Legal, a homemade one, came in operation and remained in use until 1968, when a bright red firetruck was

purchased. In 1963, council passed a by-law to construct a new village hall that would also house the first firetruck in Legal. Part of the building was designated as a firehall and soon, the new bright red firetruck mentioned above was bought to fill the space set aside for it in the firehall. In 1989, another firetruck was purchased and at about the same time council approved the construction of a new firehall which would house the firetrucks and also the ambulances.



Official opening of the Legal Fire Hall, 1991



Legal Fire Hall with new illuminated Clock installed. Clock donated by Volunteers of the Fire Department and Ambulance Service

### *Ambulance Service:*

The first ambulance service in Legal was provided by Connelly McKinley. This service continued for many years and was greatly appreciated by the people of Legal. It consisted of a 1959 station-wagon converted into an ambulance. It lacked in many ways, but it was better than nothing and it did serve the purpose for many years. In 1973, a second ambulance was purchased by the village. This time it was an ambulance with more "modern" equipment. Things were definitely getting better! Finally in 1989, a third ambulance, with the latest in equipment was purchased by the village. Trained personel was hired to man the ambulance and today Legal is proud of the ambulance services available.



The Village of Legal presented a framed photo of the Legal church and rectory to Connelly-McKinley Ltd. in appreciation for providing Legal with an ambulance for many years: Mr. & Mrs. Tom Connelly, Dick Fowler (mayor of St. Albert), Lucille Dubé, Marcel Dubé (mayor of Legal)

### **OTHER IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

#### *Street pavement:*

The village of Legal now has paved streets throughout, but such was not always the case. Many of us today still recall the "good old days" of horses and buggies and the "knee deep" mud. It is interesting to read how in fact Legalians eventually pulled themselves out of the mud to where they presently stand on good paved streets. In the early days, rain automatically meant mud and lots of it, in every part of the village. In 1938, with the arrival of Dr. Whissell, the people of the village approached him and offered him the job

of Mayor in exchange for a gravelled main street. He accepted the challenge, campaigned on that issue and won his election to become mayor of Legal. Shortly after his election, the main street was gravelled from Pat Montpetit's Grocery Store to the corner where the church presently stands. Eventually all the streets were gravelled but it is only much later that the council initiated talks for paving, first the main street and eventually all the streets. In 1976, By-law # 385 was passed to insure indebtedness by issuance of debenture for the purpose of street paving and base structure of the main street. In 1979, another by-law was passed, this time with the intent of paving all the streets of the village. The total cost of the project was \$1,086,000.00, a large portion of which was covered by substantial grants received from higher levels of government.

#### *Sport facilities:*

Over the years, the people of Legal have always been very sportsminded. As we read in the papers of the past, we notice that Legal always had its share of teams in a variety of sports. Baseball and hockey, of course, have been the favorite ones and the village always maintained its ball diamonds and hockey rinks over the years; on many occasions Legal has produced many championship teams in those two sports. In fact one of Legal's biggest project was in the area of sports, when with its centennial project, it endeavoured the construction of an arena for its rural and urban community. With By-law # 284, the village council, through the efforts of the recreation board, authorized the construction of such a building, at



Horses with buggies on muddy streets in front of Wilfrid Fortin's hotel, 1915



the estimated cost of \$44,000.00. In those days, that represented a huge sum of money. However, committees were formed, donations collected, grants applied for and in 1967, Legal had its arena. For a small community of Legal's size, this was quite an accomplishment, but then it wasn't the first time that Legal had shown leadership and initiative in its undertakings. It already had a small two sheet curling rink, the fruit of good community spirit and cooperation. The idea of the curling rink originated in 1951 from people who enjoyed the sport but had to go out of the community to participate in it. Again through fund raisers, donations and volunteer labour, that project became a reality in 1952 and the amateurs of curling no longer had to travel out of town to practice the sport they loved. In 1977, ten years after the building of the arena, the village council and the recreation board were both instrumental in building a sport complex that added a modern lobby with cooking facilities, four full size comfortable dressing rooms, and artificial ice to the arena and four sheets of artificial ice for a new curling complex which was annexed to the arena. The old curling rink, after 25 years of use, was then demolished but many still have very fond memories of the many wonderful times they had in the old building.

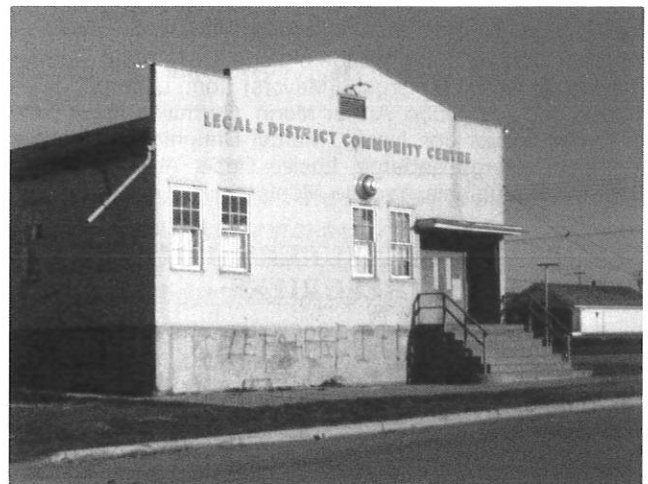
#### *The Château Sturgeon and the Villas:*

It is essential to provide facilities for the younger and more agile citizens of our community but one cannot forget in the process, about the ones who, in earlier days, contributed and made possible what the younger generations are now enjoying. What we have now, is the fruit of the labor of those who came before us. In order to show appreciation to its senior citizens, the village council authorized in 1961 the construction of a fully modern home for the aged at the northeast end of the village just north of the present school site. While the youngsters of the community were receiving proper training and education at the school, just a few hundred feet away from the main school building, our senior citizens were guaranteed proper care and love in the new Château Sturgeon. Many of our older community members have found peace and comfort in the Château over the years and many others will find the same peace and comfort in the years to come. In 1987 and 1990, small self-contained units were also constructed for the seniors who can still maintain their own home but are unable to look after a large yard and cope with the chores

associated with the upkeep of a house. The Sunset Villa and Sunrise Villa were built to accommodate these people. It goes on to say that the citizens of Legal, young and old, can find the services they need in their community.

#### *The Community Hall:*

It is hard to determine when precisely Legal made use of a community hall. In the minutes of March 1, 1934 one reads that a \$10.00 fee was charged to individuals who wanted to rent the hall. In the minutes of June 2, 1948, a motion to buy an old hangar from Innisfail at a cost of \$10,000.00 was passed for community use. The present hall, one of the older structures in our community, more than likely came into existence shortly after 1949. In the November 9, 1949 minutes of the village, a business licence was issued to Arthur Lamarche to operate a dance and movie projection hall in Legal. This hall is now owned and operated by the Village of Legal.



The Legal & District Community Centre, built in 1949, was co-owned first by Lorenzo St. Jean & Arthur Lamarche, then by the Village of Legal

#### **LIST OF MAYORS/LISTE DES MAIRES**

Télesphore St-Arnaud (1914)  
 Ménéippe Massie (1915-18, 1924, 1938,1940)  
 François Trudel (1919)  
 Joseph Duquette (1920)  
 Charles Julien (1921)  
 Wilfred Fortin (1922-23, 1928-29)  
 Phédime Lanouette 1925-27, 1932)  
 Thomas Deschatelets (1930)  
 Joseph St. Martin (1931, 1934-35, 1943, 1945)  
 Joseph Préfontaine (1933)  
 Delphis Coulombe (1936, 1937, 1939)  
 George Whissell (1941)  
 Léon Préfontaine (1942)  
 Edmond Dozois (1944)  
 Georges Montpetit (1946-49, 1951-57, 1961-62)  
 Lucien Provost (1950)  
 (starting in 1958, elections are held in October)

Marcel Dauphinais (1958-60)  
 Léon St. Martin (1963-72)  
 Joseph Nault (1973-75)  
 Arthur Morin (May 1976, October 1977))  
 Marcel Dubé (1977-1980)  
 Yvan Gagnon (1981-87)  
 Tom LaBerge (1988-90)  
 Kathy Brisson (1991)  
 Richard St. Jean (1992-)



75th anniversary of the Village of Legal (1914-1989). Former mayors & wives of Legal: (Mayors) Tom Laberge, Yvan Gagnon, Marcel Dubé, Arthur Morin, Germaine Nault (wife of former mayor Jos Nault), Marcel Dauphinais, Georges Montpetit, Margo Laberge, Lucille Dubé, Alphéda Morin, Lorraine Dauphinais, Yvonne Montpetit

**SECRETARY TREASURERS (1914-1982)**  
**SECRETAIRES-TRESORIERES**

Romuald Rouleau  
 Joseph Lemire  
 Jean-Baptiste Côté  
 J.B. Bazinet  
 J.A. Counier  
 Jos Lafond  
 Ulric Blais  
 Arthur Carrière  
 Joseph Therrien  
 Lionel Tellier



1987, Legal Village Council, Jim Hunting, Tom Laberge, Yvan Gagnon (mayor), Rolland Demers, Don Hills, Raoul St. Jean (foreman), Agnes Montpetit (administrator)

Léo Carrière  
 Peter Titiryn  
 Lorenzo St. Jean  
 Roméo Boissonnault  
 Agnes Montpetit 1970-1982 – Secretary-Treasurer  
 Note: Agnes Montpetit was the first administrator in 1982 (Administrators 1982-1994 Administrateurs)  
 Roger Huel  
 Wilma Weiss

**COUNCILLORS (1914-1994) CONSEILLERS**

Jean Baptiste Lamarche	Thomas Deschatelets
Phédime Lanouette	J.A. Garneau
Dr. Joseph Riopel	Joseph Préfontaine
Joseph St-Martin	Albert Mullen
Emile Letourneau	Delphis Coulombe
Léon Préfontaine	Jean Duthel
Ménésippe Massie	Adrien Hébert
George Whissell	Edmond Dozois
Albert Montpetit	Wilfred Lecavalier
Denis Mercier	Lucien Provost
Lucien Bergevin	Marcel Dauphinais
Ted Tetreau	Léon St-Martin
Normand Letourneau	Ferdinand Martineau
Joseph Nault	Daniel St-Martin
Ralph Sigouin	Lorenzo St-Jean
Roland Préfontaine	Marcel Dubé
Arthur Morin	Gérald St-Jean
Marcel Coulombe	Yvan Gagnon
Laurier Brisson	Roland Demers
Denis Limoges	Arthur Derrien
Ben Gagné	Rodney St-Martin
Tom LaBerge	Don Hills
Jim Hunting	Kathy Brisson
Pat Briault	Bill McLellan
Rémi Thibault	Richard St. Jean
Laurie Préfontaine	Ken Hunting
Raoul St-Jean:	



Present Village of Legal Council: Mayor Richard St. Jean, Ken Hunting, Raoul St. Jean, Laurie Préfontaine, Kathy Brisson, Wilma Weiss (administrator)

*Points of Interest:*

- November 1912, Father Normandeau had the telephone installed at the rectory.
- The hamlet of Legal became the Village of Legal February 20, 1914.
- July 16, 1913, M. Lamarre had a new water system installed in his hotel, with cold and hot water, and with steam.

- 1917, Alberta women made history by becoming the first Canadian females to cast ballots in a provincial election.
- The Parish Hall built in 1917-18, held the School Fair every fall; it was also used for meetings and social evenings.
- 1924, Legal is invaded by caterpillars.
- 1930, after his parish visit, Father Goutier has counted 435 persons in the village, and 1176 in the country.
- July 7, 1934, the council voted in favor of the first "Stampede Day" in Legal.
- The first snowplow for the village was purchased from Octave Préfontaine in 1935 for \$6.00.
- The minutes for the Village of Legal were written in French until September 8, 1939.
- July 13, 1946, Legal is the scene of a parade of cars; it's a delegation of francophones from Montréal visiting western Canada.
- October 27, 1947, the old rectory is destroyed by a fire.
- The village of Legal opened an account with The Bank of Nova Scotia in Legal in 1948.
- Legal was known as "Moonshine Valley" (wonder why?)
- January 1952, Old Age Security came into effect.
- 1953, year of the polio epidemic.
- January 1966, Canada Pension Plan came into effect.
- In July of 1991, the water reservoir was converted into a fish pond and a "Centennial Park" was developed around it.
- In 1991, by-law 47-91 established a tourist action committee consisting of a council member, a municipal administrator and a member of the general public.
- May 1993, the population of the village of Legal is 945.
- Legal is situated 48 kilometers north of Edmonton and three kilometers east of Highway #2.
- There is a daily Greyhound bus service to and from Edmonton.

### **Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal**

Raoul St. Jean was born, raised and educated in Legal. He married Rita Demers February 22, 1949 and they raised a family of eight children.

Raoul worked for the Village of Legal from 1949 to 1988. He was fire-chief for 40 years with the Legal Firemen's Department. On March 9, 1992, Raoul was awarded the Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal in recognition for 20, 30 and 40 years of loyal and meritorious service

to public security in Canada from the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn. This prestigious award was presented to Raoul by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, His Honour the Honourable Gordon Towers.



His Honour the Honourable Gordon Towers presents Raoul St. Jean with the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal in 1992

*Raoul St-Jean est né à Legal où il reçut son éducation. Il épousa Rita Demers le 22 février 1949 et ils eurent huit enfants.*

*Raoul fut employé par le Village de Legal de 1949 à 1988. En 1992, il fut honoré pour ses 40 ans de dévouement dans ce domaine. L'Honorable Gordon Towers lui présenta une médaille au nom du Gouverneur Général du Canada.*

### **"Heart of Gold Award"**

Le maire de Legal, Tom Laberge, présenta le certificat du "Coeur d'Or 1988" d'Air Canada à



Mayor Tom Laberge and Germaine Nault

Germaine Nault, pour son bénévolat dans la communauté.

*Germaine Nault was presented with the 1988*

*Air Canada "Heart of Gold Award" by Mayor Tom Laberge for her volunteer work in the community.*

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## MUNICIPAL

### **Municipal District of Sturgeon - District Municipal de Sturgeon**

How did local government around Legal start to grow to what it is today? A quick look at how the Municipal District (M.D.) of Sturgeon has evolved over the years might be just the beginning of an answer to this question. This history should rightfully begin with the native people who lived in this area prior to 1670, and their different forms of local government.

The "Hudson's Bay Company, English corporation, [was] formed in 1670, when Charles II, king of England granted a charter to Prince Rupert, his Bohemian-born cousin, and 17 other noblemen and gentlemen, thus giving them a monopoly over trade in the region watered by streams flowing in Hudson Bay [...The area] was known as Rupert's Land, [and] their company also had the power to establish laws and impose penalties for the infraction of the laws, to erect forts, to maintain ships of war, and to make peace or war with the natives [...]. By 1749 the company had only four or five coastal forts and no more than 120 employees [...]. Conflicts with the French over the fur trade were finally resolved by the British conquest of Canada in 1763."(1)

Unknown to the native inhabitants of the Legal area at this time was that their forms of local government were already being taken out of their hands. Local government as we know it today was taking "seed". We come across two new ideas in local government: the "charter", and "exploration" or "settlement". A charter was a document signed by a monarch, that could grant land to companies for the purpose of establishing colonies. It could be granted to inhabitants of an existing colony, handing over certain aspects of self-government. It could grant individual proprietors hereditary rights over land and settlers.

Rupert's Land was ruled by the charter of the Hudson's Bay Company until rule was handed over to the crown in 1869, two years after Confederation. To help us understand the role of charters in the development of local government,

it might be interesting to note that Saint John, New Brunswick, was granted the first municipal charter in Canada in 1785. Montreal, though founded by Sieur de Maisonneuve in 1642, was only granted a municipal charter in the 1830's along with Québec City and York, later to be named Toronto.

Until 1869 then, our local government was in the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company. Explorers, though they came under the jurisdiction of the Hudson Bay Company's charter, proceeded with their task of mapping the country: "When David Thompson [...] departed from the West in 1812, he had mapped the main travel routes through 1,700,000 square miles of Canadian and American territory."

The days of the Hudson Bay Company rule of the West were fairly tame. It was a time of rule by royal charter. Explorers were mapping the country and settlers were setting up communities here and there in a kind of "catch as catch can" way. But the ways of the New World had already started to change people's patterns of thought. Highly influenced by the governments of the native peoples of the eastern parts of North America, the British colonies had rebelled in 1776 and written up a constitution to take government out of the hands of monarchs to give it to the people. In Canada: "The 1849 Municipal Act enacted by the Ontario Legislature was a model for other parts of Canada although the provision for two levels or classes of municipalities was not considered appropriate in the West." We see a slow transition from government by charter to government by legislature.

In 1869, rule of the West passed from the Hudson Bay Company to the newly created federal government of the Dominion of Canada. The area was organized into The Northwest Territories. In 1882, this was subdivided into administrative districts, where Alberta received its present borders. In 1875, Ottawa established an appointed Territorial Council for the West beyond Manitoba. This permitted elected representatives in an area with a population reaching 1,000 people. The

Territorial Council was based in Battleford at first, but was then moved to Regina.

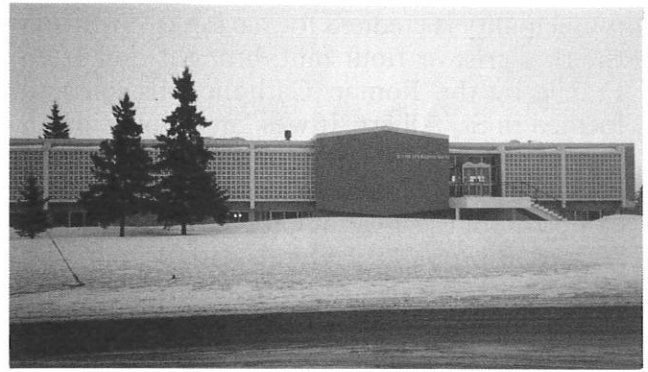
In 1883, now that Alberta existed, Ottawa passed the North-West Municipal Ordinance, based on Ontario's, but which still excluded the concept of counties. The year 1885 saw a count of 59 school districts in the West, but very few municipalities. This was also the year of the Louis Riel Rebellion. By 1887, Canada saw an annual immigration of 85,000 settlers. The Territories had a population of 80,000, one quarter living on the reserves. Alberta's population was 17,000, of which St. Albert boasted a proud 1,000. Ottawa had in place five principal ordinances for their local government: School, Herd, Fire, Municipal and Statute Labour. Local government was emerging. [...]

"In the early years local governments in Alberta raised funds through taxes on real property, personal property, income and/or a poll tax. Farmers could pay off some or all of their taxes by working on municipal roads. In addition to the creation of villages, towns and cities through general legislation or by special charter, there were a number of small and large (more sparsely populated) local improvement districts established.

"When Alberta was made a province in 1905 the responsibility for local government affairs was part of a Department of Public Works. [...]he province created a Department of Municipal Affairs on Dec, 20, 1911. [...] The most notable change was an extension of self-government to rural areas in Alberta: 55 rural municipalities came into existence on Dec. 9, 1912.

"In addition to school districts there were: library boards as of 1912; local or district hospital boards as of 1919; and drainage districts as of 1921. The first board to supervise the issuance of municipal debentures was the Board of Public Utility Commissioners created in 1915."

By now, we pretty well had most of the elements of local government as we know it today. But by 1936, there were 3,771 school districts in the province. By 1941, these were reduced to 60. In 1941 there were 143 municipal districts and 216 improvement districts. The early 1940's saw these reduced to 60 and 50 respectively. The County Act of 1950 established a permanent and proper size for municipalities and school districts, as well as one local self-government.



Office of Municipal District of Sturgeon No. 90

This brings us to the history of the Municipal District of Sturgeon No. 90.:

The Municipal District of Sturgeon No. 90, as it exists today, consisted of the former Statute Labour District No. 230, formed on March 5th, 1898 and Statute Labour District No. 45 (and Fire District) formed on May 30th, 1896.

"Statute Labour and Fire District No. 45 comprised the area north of the city of Edmonton, such as St. Albert, Namao, Lamoureux, Morinville, Villeneuve, Riviere Qui Barre, Calahoo, Alcomdale, Mearns and part of Legal. The names of Messrs. Samuel Saucy, overseer, Charles Whalen, Walter Pelletier, Georges Gagnon, L. Ricard, E. Harnois, P. Kelly, A. Fortier, J. Tough, J. Latulippe, E. Courchesne, G. Noyes and many more appear on several occasions in the old records of minutes. In a brief passage, from such records we note, that for the year 1900 there was one mile of road cleared, 16 culverts built, 9 repaired, 440 yards of corduroy completed, and 28 sloughs and holes filled.

"The financial statement for that year was as follows: Total Receipts - \$135.75; Total Expenditures - \$151.30; Overexpenditures - \$15.55; Audit fee to Mr. T.J. Colisson - \$3.00.

"As we reminisce we note that taxes, which amounted from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per quarter land prior to the turn of the century, were paid to a Central Office at Regina. The property owners had the choice of paying in cash half the amount of their taxes and do road work for the other portion. Council meetings were held in farm homes which in most cases was the secretary-treasurer's home and his wife would provide meals to Councillors attending.

"The first school in Alberta was established near Lamoureux [...]. [T]he first wheat grown for resale purposes was produced on a farm five miles east of St. Albert by Mr. Bill Cust. This

municipality is credited for having in operation the first grist or flour mill, brought over from France by the Roman Catholic Mission and located in St. Albert. It was later moved down the Sturgeon River south of Bon Accord. [...]

“Statute Labour District No. 230 was composed of the areas of Gibbons, Amelia, Bon Accord, Coronado, Fedorah and Waugh. [...] From the years 1911 to 1917 this area was known as Local Improvement District No. 548 [...]. The Municipal District of Sturgeon No. 548 was formed January 1st, 1918 with the office located on the farm of Gabriel Morris, secretary-treasurer; namely the NW 4-56-24-4. The members of the Council were Messrs. G.A. Wilkinson (reeve), J. Gowin, H. Bell, Art Lamoureux, A. Gagnon, R.A. Hewitt. Councillors remunerations were set at \$2.00 per day. Taxation rates were calculated at .07 [and a half] per acre.

“[.T]he former Statute Labour and Fire District No. 45 was then formed in a municipality in 1919, to be known as the M.D. of Ray No. 519 [...]. The office was located at St. Albert.

“The areas of Picardville, Vimy, Legal and Busby were incorporated into the Municipal District No. 549 having as councillors Messrs. D. Petrie, J. Glebe, H. Casavant, P.O. Brien (reeve), W. Shaw, and H.G. Lefebvre, with W.J. Wood as secretary-treasurer. This office was located at Picardville.

“Wages for labor on road construction were in accordance with the time; man and team of horses - .70c per hour; man and four horses - \$1.05 per hour; and foreman - .60c per hour.

“The year 1942 saw [...] the Municipal Districts of Opal No. 578 and Sturgeon No. 90 [amalgamate]. At the first meeting of the new council the name of the Municipality was changed to the M.D. of Sturgeon No. 90. [...] The Municipal District of Ray No. 549 and Hazelwood No. 579 were amalgamated in 1943 and said areas were known as the Municipal District of Morinville No. 91, with the office located at Morinville. The first council consisted of Messrs. J. Dusseault (reeve), J. Schafers, Art Saligo, Alex Morrison, N. Logan, and secretary-treasurer Oscar Patry. In 1954, [the two] united as one to be known as the Municipal District of Sturgeon River No. 90 with the office located on the Fort Trail, Edmonton. The boundaries of this municipality were set to form coterminous boundaries with the Sturgeon

School Division No. 24. The first council, consisting of Messrs. L. Rye (reeve), J. Crozier, S. Walker, G. Holmes, and G. Meunier (replaced by A. Nobert one year later), appointed Mr. Art Walters as secretary-treasurer and O. Patry as assistant secretary-treasurer. Mr. Walters died in 1955, and was replaced by Mr. O. Patry.

“Said local government remained in office for six years, but during this time, the Provincial Government had introduced the County system for rural municipalities. In January, 1961, the Municipal District of Sturgeon No. 90 changed status and became the County of Sturgeon No. 15. Messrs. S. Walker, (Chairman), Ed Courchesne, L. Rye, W. Flynn, A. Nobert, W. Van De Walle, D. Bevington were the councillors elected. Oscar Patry, the appointed secretary-treasurer and Ernest Meaden, the assistant secretary-treasurer. In Morinville throughout the winter of 1961-1962, for both the Municipal and School Administration, a new office was constructed which was ready for occupancy on May 18th, 1962. During the month of January, 1962 the County of Sturgeon No. 15 was saddened by the death of the secretary-treasurer, Oscar Patry, and a week later by the death of assistant secretary-treasurer Ernest Meaden. [...In] 1962, [...] Alphonse Nobert [...] was appointed secretary-treasurer and Mrs. J. McFadden - assistant secretary-treasurer.



Municipal District of Morinville No. 549: Stan Walker, Gustave Meunier, Nick Perrot, Joseph Dusseault, John Schaffers, Oscar Patry (secretary-treasurer), 1948-49

“Pursuant to the County Act, after four years of administration as a county, proprietary electors are entitled to request a plebiscite to see if the majority are in favor of continuing with the county administration, or to revert to the former system of administration. Such a plebiscite was held in the spring of 1965. By Order in Council, on July 12th, 1965 the County

administration was discontinued and the area reverted to the former Municipal District of Sturgeon No. 90, and the Sturgeon School Division No. 24 status. An election was held, electing as the first Council Messrs. Walker (reeve), G. Wilson, L. Rye, W. Flynn, L. Kluthe, W. Van De Walle, and D. Bevington. Mr. A. Nobert was appointed as secretary-treasurer with Mrs. Jean Rice as assistant secretary-treasurer.

"[...] Councillors remuneration was \$2.00 per day now \$25.00 per day; Public Works' Employees' salary was .40c per hour, now \$2.15 per hour; Taxes calculated at .07c per acre.

"Recognition is in order to persons who have served for many years, either as councillors or secretary-treasurer: Mr. Jos McLean - 31 years as councillor; Mr. Henry Stack - 32 years as councillor; Walter Van De Walle - 20 years as councillor, and the following as secretary-treasurer: Mr. Gabriel Morris - 35 years; Mr. Art Walters - 32 years; Mr. Mike Hogan - 23 years; Mr. Oscar Patry - 26 years; and Mr. Ernest Meaden - 23 years.



Councillors for the County of Sturgeon No. 15: Lawrence Kluthe, George Wilson, Don Bevington, Lawrence Rye, Willie Flynn, Stan Walker (reeve), Walter Van De Walle, Alphonse Nobert (secretary-treasurer), 1962

"On the 70th Anniversary of Local Administration of this area may we pay tribute to the pioneers and founders who have worked so hard so that we may enjoy the amenities of today." (4)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Quotations in this history, in order of appearance, are from: 1) *Funk and Wagnall's New Encyclopedia*; 2) *Dateline: Canada* by Bob Bowman; 3) *Alberta Local Governments by Alberta Municipal Affairs*; 4) *The Story of Municipal Government in Alberta*. Story researched by Paul Belley.



October 1992 election: Wendy Miller (Division 3), Dr. Walt Buck (1), Jerry Kaup (5), Cal Putman (6), Jack Pearce (2), Vic Pasay (7), Gilbert Boddez (administrator), Frank Schoenberger (reeve, Division 4), Larry Kirkpatrick (assistant administrator)

*Afin de bien comprendre l'évolution du District Municipal de Sturgeon, il nous faut retourner vers 1670, alors que les autochtones de cette région possédaient déjà plusieurs formes de gouvernement local.*

*La Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson, une corporation anglaise, fut formée en 1670 alors que Charles II, roi d'Angleterre, accordait à son cousin le Prince Rupert, ainsi qu'à 17 autres gentilhommes, une charte leur octroyant le monopole du commerce de cette région. Cette compagnie connue sous le nom de "Rupert's Land % Cd" (Terre de Rupert), avait le pouvoir d'établir des lois, d'imposer des pénalités, d'ériger des forts, de voir à l'entretien des bateaux de guerre et de choisir entre la paix ou la guerre avec les indigènes. En 1749, la compagnie ne possédait qu'environ quatre ou cinq forts côtiers et 120 employés.*

*A l'insu des autochtones habitant la région de Legal à ce temps-là, leur forme de gouvernement actuel leur était enlevé petit à petit, et deux nouvelles idées émergeaient, l'une appelée "charte" et l'autre, "exploration" ou "établissement".*

*Une charte était un document signé par la monarchie attribuant du terrain aux compagnies désireuses de colonisation, ainsi qu'aux habitants d'une colonie déjà existante et donnant le droit de propriété aux individus. La Terre de Rupert fut gouvernée par la charte de la Baie d'Hudson jusqu'en 1869 et retourna par la suite à la couronne, deux ans après la Confédération. Il est intéressant de noter que St. John (Nouveau-Brunswick) reçut la première charte municipale au Canada en 1785, alors que Montréal, fondé en 1642 par le Sieur de Maisonneuve, ne reçut sa charte que vers les années 1830, simultanément avec les villes de Québec et Toronto (York à ce temps-là). Les explorateurs, quoique soumis à la charte de la Baie d'Hudson,*

poursuivirent leur travail de cartographie. En 1812, près de deux millions de milles carrés de route avaient été tracés sur le territoire canadien et américain, amenant ainsi de nouveaux colons souhaitant former de nouvelles communautés. Cette colonisation continue amena aussi des changements dans la forme de gouvernement dans l'Ouest et peu à peu, la charte fut remplacée par un gouvernement législateur. En 1869, le premier gouvernement fédéral fut créé et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest en firent partie. En 1882, les territoires furent sub-divisés en districts administratifs et c'est alors que furent délimitées les bornes de l'Alberta. (En 1875, Ottawa avait désigné un conseil territorial pour l'Ouest au-delà du Manitoba, permettant ainsi d'élire des représentants au gouvernement. Ce conseil était d'abord situé à Battleford, mais déménagea par la suite à Regina.) En 1883, Ottawa passa un décret ministériel basé sur celui de l'Ontario, mais excluant toujours le concept des comtés. En 1885, 59 districts scolaires existaient déjà dans l'Ouest, mais on comptait très peu de municipalités. Par 1887, 85 000 colons émigraient au Canada, les territoires ayant une population de 80 000 dont un quart résidait sur les réserves indiennes. Ces réserves furent établies entre 1871 et 1921, lors de la signature des traités entre le Canada et les Amérindiens. L'Alberta comprenait 17,000 résidents, dont 1,000 à St-Albert. Le gouvernement local administrait les écoles, les troupes, les pompiers, les municipalités et le droit de travail. Le relevé de fonds provenait des taxes sur le revenu, sur les propriétés personnelles et sur les immeubles commerciales. Les fermiers pouvaient s'acquitter de leurs dettes en travaillant sur les chemins municipaux. En plus des villages et des villes créés par législation ou par charte spéciale, on y voyait aussi l'établissement de districts non incorporés ("local improvement districts").

Quand l'Alberta devint une province en 1905, la responsabilité du gouvernement local passait par l'entremise du Ministère des Travaux Publics et en 1911, la province créa son propre Ministère d'Affaires Municipales. C'est alors que les districts non incorporés furent administrés par les Affaires Municipales provinciales. Le 9 décembre 1912, on comptait donc 55 municipalités rurales incorporées.

En plus des districts scolaires déjà existants, on comptait un conseil de librairie en 1912, un conseil d'administration d'hôpital en 1919 et des districts d'égouts en 1921. Avec la colonisation et l'amélioration des routes, les districts scolaires et les municipalités s'agrandirent et tous les éléments

existaient pour la survie d'un gouvernement local.

Le District Municipal de Sturgeon No. 90 tel qu'il existe aujourd'hui avait été formé par le "Statute Labour District" No. 230, le 5 mars 1898 et par le "Statute Labour District" No. 45, le 30 mai 1896. Ce dernier comprenait la région nord de la ville d'Edmonton (St-Albert, Namao, Lamoureux, Morinville, Villeneuve, Rivière Qui Barre, Calahoo, Alcomdale, Mearns et une partie de Legal). Plusieurs noms de pionniers paraissent dans les procès verbaux de ce temps. On note en passant, qu'en 1900, on avait défriché un mille de chemin, bâti 16 aqueducs, en avait réparé neuf, complété 400 verges de chemins en rondins et rempli 28 bourbiers et trous.

Le bilan financier de cette année-là était comme suit: recettes (135,75\$), dépenses totales (151,30\$). Les frais de l'auditeur étaient de 3\$. Il est intéressant de noter que les impôts pour un quart de section au tournant du siècle variaient entre 2,50\$ et 4\$ dont l'on pouvait payer la moitié en argent comptant et l'autre moitié, en travaillant sur les chemins. Les assemblées se tenaient habituellement à la résidence du secrétaire-trésorier dont l'épouse devait pourvoir aux repas des conseillers qui assistaient à ces réunions.

La deuxième école fut établie aux environs de Lamoureux. Le premier blé récolté commercialement fut produit sur la ferme de Bill Cust, à cinq milles à l'est de St-Albert. On attribue à cette municipalité le premier moulin à farine venu de France par l'entremise de la Mission Catholique Romaine située à St-Albert.

Le "Statute Labour District" No. 230 comprenait les régions de Gibbons, Amelia, Bon Accord, Coronado, Fedorah et Waugh. Le District Municipal de Sturgeon No. 548 fut formé le 1 janvier 1918 et avait son bureau à la ferme de Gabriel Morris, secrétaire-trésorier. Les rémunérations des conseillers étaient de 2\$ par jour et les taxes étaient calculées à ,07 et demi l'arpent. Le district No. 45 fut formé en municipalité en 1919, avec ses bureaux à St-Albert. Les régions de Pickardville, Vimy, Legal et Busby furent incorporées dans le district municipal No. 549, ayant leur bureau à Pickardville.

Les salaires pour le travail de la construction des chemins étaient les suivants: un homme et deux chevaux, 70¢ de l'heure; un homme et quatre chevaux, 1,05\$ de l'heure; le contre-maître, 60¢ de l'heure.

En 1942, les districts municipaux No. 578 d'Opal et No. 190 de Sturgeon s'unirent et les deux formèrent le District Municipal de Sturgeon No.



90. En 1943, les districts municipaux No. 549 de Ray et No. 579 de Hazelwood s'unirent aussi, et devinrent le District Municipal de Morinville No. 91, ayant ses bureaux à Morinville. En 1954, celui-ci s'amalgama avec le district de Sturgeon No. 90, avec leurs bureaux situés sur Fort Trail, à Edmonton. Les bornes de cette municipalité longeaient les bornes de la Division Scolaire de Sturgeon No. 24.

Ce gouvernement local fut en place pendant six ans, mais en janvier 1961, le District Municipal de Sturgeon No. 90 devint le comté de Sturgeon No. 15. Cependant, selon les règlements des comtés, après quatre ans d'administration comme comté, un plébiscite pouvait être tenu afin de décider si la majorité tenait à demeurer dans le comté ou préférait reprendre l'autre système d'administration. Un vote fut pris, et le 12 juillet 1965, le statut de comté fut discontinué et la région redevint le District Municipal de Sturgeon No. 90 et la Division Scolaire de Sturgeon No. 24. Un nouveau conseil fut élu, donnant un salaire de 25\$ par jour aux conseillers et de 2,15\$ de l'heure aux employés de travaux publics.

Les districts municipaux et scolaires sont très reconnaissants envers tous ceux et celles qui ont assisté aux nombreuses réunions durant de longues et difficiles années. Notons spécialement les personnes suivantes: comme conseillers - Jos McLean (31 ans), Henry Stack (32) et Walter Van De Walle (20); comme secrétaire-trésorier - Gabriel Morris (35), Art Walters (32), Mike Hogan (23), Oscar Patry (26) et Ernest Meaden (23).

En ce 70e anniversaire d'administration locale de cette région, rendons hommage à nos pionniers et nos fondateurs qui ont travaillé si ardemment afin de nous procurer les commodités et le confort dont nous jouissons aujourd'hui.

## **Municipal District of Westlock - District Municipal de Westlock**

The Municipal District (M.D.) of Westlock No. 562 was established effective February 1, 1943 and incorporated within its boundaries portions of: the M.D. of Hazelwood No. 579, the M.D. of Lockerbei No. 608, all of the M.D. of Pibroch No. 609 and the M.D. of Shoal Creek No. 610. The first elected council for the M.D. of Westlock No. 562 in 1943 consisted of:

Division one: Alois Zaczkowski (Westlock), Division two: Henery Terhorst (Manola), Division three: William Johnson (Barrhead), Division four: Fred Casavant (Shoal Creek), Division five: Leo Short (Pibroch), Division six: Moïse Dusseault (Clyde), Division seven: William Giles

(Rochester). The secretary-treasurer was Thomas Garde from Pibroch.

In 1945, the Municipal District of Westlock No. 562 was re-numbered the Municipal District of Westlock No. 92. Changes were made to the boundaries in 1944 and 1946 but effective January 1, 1955, a major boundary change occurred resulting in the incorporation, within the M.D.'s boundaries, portions of: the M.D. of Sturgeon No. 90, the M.D. of Morinville No. 91, the M.D. of Lac Ste. Anne No. 93 and Improvement District No. 107, into basically the current M.D. of Westlock No. 92. After the major boundary revision of 1955, the council with revised electoral districts consisted of:

Division one: Joseph Dusseault (reeve, Vimy), Division two: Joseph Nadeau (Pickardville), Division three: Albert Cyre (Shoal Creek), Division four: Alois Zaczkowski (Westlock), Division five: John Harry (Nestow), Division six: William Primeau (Dapp), Division seven: Grant Burrows (Jarvie). The secretary-treasurer was E.W. Stutchbury.

Every three years, an election was held. In Division one: Joe Dusseault held office until 1961, then Albreda Fortier (1961-1971), John Zadunayski (1971-1973), Léon Riopel (1973-1977) and Jean-Marie De Champlain (1977 to the present). Division two: Joseph Nadeau (until 1962 and 1983-1986), Robert MacLachlan (1962-1980), Sidney Glebe (1980-1983), Albert St. Louis (1986 to present). Division three: Albert Cyre (1955-1967), John Skardt (1967-1986), Robert Jackson (1986 to present). Division four: Alois Zaczkowski (1955-1960), Wallace Mercier (1960-1967), Bernard Forbes (1967-1977), James Wallace (1977-1979), Glenn Jones (1979-1983), John McIntyre (1983-1986), Denis Casavant (1986 to present). Division five: John Harry (1955-1974), Peter Stasuik (1974 to present). Division six: Bill Primeau (1955-1986), Ben Gudmundson (1986-1989), Enid Schreiber (1989-1992) Don Currie (1992 to present). Division seven: Grant Burrows (1955-1974), Dave Beamish (1974-1977 and 1983-1986), Leonard Chatters (1977-1983), Reinhold Hensch (1986-1992), Sue Ann Mackall (1992 to present). Five individuals have served as secretary-treasurer other than Thomas Garde, namely E. Stutchbury (1946-1956), Carl Mueller (1856-1974), Bill Macgregor (1974), Jack Elliot (1974-1984) and Wyatt Glebe (1984 to present).

Recognition is in order to the people who have served. By virtue of their foresight, judgement and good planning, they have made our community a better place to live. We salute them and express our most sincere thanks.

There are many different ways in which the name of a community or area originates. In this case, the name Westlock came from two pioneer farming families in the area, Westgate and Lockhart. From its agricultural origin, the M.D. of Westlock is still very much dependant on the agriculture industry.

The Athabasca Landing Trail, also known as the Klondike Trail, goes through the eastern part of the M.D. of Westlock for over 20 miles. This

trail has been designated a historical site and is being preserved in its natural state. During World War II, it carried all Alaska-bound traffic not served by rail or air.

The Pembina River flows northeasterly through the M.D. of Westlock and has followed a pattern of flooding its banks every eight to 12 years. On the other side of the coin, in the dry years, fires became the main concern of councils as fires raging through heavily wooded areas created a lot of potential danger for the inhabitants of these areas.

The emphasis over the last 50 years has been to develop a road system able to accommodate the ever-increasing needs of the agriculture and oil industries. The maintenance of school bus routes is also very important. The gravel deposits east and north of the municipality have necessitated an improved road system. Various departments of the Provincial Government, namely Transportation (in the development of the secondary road system), and Agriculture and Water Resources through the Service Boards with their many programs, granted financial assistance.

In 1974, a modified sewer system was constructed in the hamlet of Vimy. This was the first such system accepted by Alberta Environment to qualify under the sewer and water grant program. In 1976, in co-operation with the Town of Westlock and the provincial and federal governments, a municipal airport was constructed. This facility has proven very beneficial to local aviators as well as industries and businesses. With grants available from Canada's Centennial Year, the Tawatinaw Ski Hill was developed. In the 1980's, the Provincial Government Mini-Park

Grant helped develop the Long Lake Municipal Park which lies east of Jarvie.

The year 1991 saw the expansion of the local golf course from a nine-hole to an 18-hole course. In 1993, the M.D. of Westlock No. 92 celebrated 50 years of existence.

SOURCES: Jean-Marie De Champlain

*L'origine du nom "Westlock" vient des noms de deux pionniers de la région, Westgate et Lockhart. Le District Municipal de Westlock No. 562 a été établi le 1 février 1943; il comprenait des portions des districts de Hazelwood No. 579 et de Lockerbei No. 608, et les districts de Pibroch No. 609 et de Shoal Creek No. 610 en entier.*

*Le premier conseil élu en 1943 fut: Division un (Westlock) - A. Zaczkowski, Division deux (Manola) - Henery Terhorst, Division trois (Barrhead) - William Johnson, Division quatre (Shoal Creek) - Fred Casavant, Division cinq (Pibroch) - Leo Short, Division six (Clyde) - Moïse Dusseault, Division sept (Rochester) - William Giles.*

*Le District Municipal de Westlock No. 562 possède 20 milles de la route historique "Athabasca Landing Trail". La rivière Sturgeon serpente le district au nord-est. Le district possède aussi un important système routier, et des dépôts importants de sable et de gravier. En 1974, un système d'égout a été installé dans le hameau de Vimy. En 1976, ce fut la construction d'un aéroport municipal à Westlock. D'autres réalisations du District Municipal de Westlock sont la pente de ski de Tawatinaw, le mini-parc (grâce à une subvention provinciale) et le parc municipal de Long Lake, en plus d'un terrain de golf.*

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## PROVINCIAL

### LEGAL AND VIMY AREA RESIDENTS WHO SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

#### Télesphore St. Arnaud 1921-1926

Télesphore St. Arnaud was born in 1870 and educated in St. Boniface, Manitoba. He arrived in Legal in 1900 and opened a store and post office. In 1903, he married Marie Bernadette Normandeau, Father Normandeau's sister. Later, the couple moved to the Vimy district. Télesphore

Télesphore St. Arnaud



was elected member of the United Farmers of Alberta (U.F.A.) party in 1921 to the Alberta Legislature.

*Télesphore St-Arnaud est né en 1870 et reçut son éducation à St-Boniface (Manitoba). Il arriva à Legal en 1900 et ouvrit un magasin ainsi qu'un bureau de poste. Il épousa Marie Bernadette Normandeau, soeur de l'abbé Normandeau. La famille déménagea à Vimy. Télesphore fut élu membre du parti des Fermiers Unis de l'Alberta (U.F.A.) pendant les années 1921 à 1926.*

**Charles Holder  
1935-1944**

Charles Holder was born in Battersea, Ontario in 1874. His mother's ancestors were related to the English nobleman Sir Isaac Brock. His grandfather, Robert, of United Empire Loyalist stock, was one of the first settlers in the area of Kingston, Ontario.

Charles married Jeannette Campbell. Upon moving to Alberta, the couple homesteaded in the Vimy area. Charles was elected Social Credit Member of the Alberta Legislature in 1935 and he was re-elected in 1944.



Charles G. Holder

*Charles Holder est né à Battersea (Ontario) en 1874. Il épousa Jeannette Campbell et ils vinrent s'établir en Alberta, dans la région de Vimy. Il fut élu membre de la Législature de l'Alberta pour le parti Crédit Social en 1935. Il fut réélu en 1944.*

**Lionel Tellier  
1940-1944**

Lionel Tellier was elected as an Independent Member of the Alberta Legislature in 1940 in the newly amalgamated Sturgeon-St. Albert Constituency. He served from 1940 to 1944.

Lionel was born on December 28, 1905 in Morinville where he attended elementary school. While studying at the Jesuit College from 1920 to 1927, he received a degree in Arts. He later obtained his degree in Law at the University of



Lionel Tellier

Alberta and practiced law for 40 years, in Legal from 1934 to 1945.

*Lionel Tellier naquit le 28 décembre 1905. Après ses études primaires à Morinville, il fréquenta le Collège des Jésuites de 1920 à 1927, où il obtint un Baccalauréat en Arts. De 1927 à 1930, il poursuivit ses études à la Faculté de Droit de l'Université de l'Alberta. Il fit sa cléricature chez Giroux et Fraser à St-Albert. Il pratiqua pendant plus de 40 ans sa profession; à Legal, de 1934 à 1945.*

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA THAT REPRESENTED THE VILLAGE OF LEGAL/MEMBRES DE L'ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTANTS LEGAL**

The Village of Legal has resided in three constituencies: St. Albert (1905-1986), Westlock-Sturgeon (1986-1993), Redwater (1993-).

*Le Village de Legal a fait partie de trois circonscriptions: St-Albert (1905-1986), Westlock-Sturgeon (1986-1993) et Redwater (1993-)*

ELECTION St. Albert	NAME/NOM	POLITICAL AFFILIATION/ AFFILIATION POLITIQUE
November 9, 1905	Henry W. McKenny	Liberal
March 22, 1909	Lucien Boudreau	Liberal
April 17, 1913	Lucien Boudreau	Liberal
June 7, 1917	Lucien Boudreau	Liberal
June 18, 1921	Telesphore St. Arnaud	United Farmers of Alberta (U.F.A.)
June 28, 1926	Lucien Boudreau	Liberal
June 19, 1930	Omer St. Germain	U.F.A.
August 22, 1935	Charles G. Holder	Social Credit
March 21, 1940	Lionel R. Tellier	Independent
August 8, 1944	Charles G. Holder	Social Credit
August 17, 1948	J. Lucien P. Maynard	Social Credit
August 5, 1952	J. Lucien P. Maynard	Social Credit
June 29, 1955	Arthur J. Soetaert	Liberal
June 18, 1958	H. Keith Everitt	Social Credit
June 17, 1963	H. Keith Everitt	Social Credit
May 23, 1967	H. Keith Everitt	Social Credit
August 30, 1971	W. Ernest Jamison	Progressive
March 26, 1975	W. Ernest Jamison	P.C.
March 14, 1979	Myrna C. Fyfe	P.C.
November 2, 1982	Myrna C. Fyfe	P.C.

<i>Westlock-Sturgeon</i>		
May 8, 1986	Nicholas W. Taylor	Liberal
March 20, 1989	Nicholas W. Taylor	Liberal
<i>Redwater</i>		
June 15, 1993	Nicholas W. Taylor	Liberal

Mr. Maynard held a Portfolio during the time he represented the constituency of St. Albert.

*M. Maynard était membre du Cabinet pendant qu'il représentait la circonscription de St-Albert.*

*Maynard, J. Lucien P.*

*Attorney General, June 1, 1945 - August 1, 1955*

## **ALBERTA 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION**

The Province of Alberta, which was officially formed on September 1, 1905, presented the "Alberta 75th Commemorative Medallion" on the occasion of its 75th anniversary in 1980: a gold one to residents over 75 years of age who were born or resident in the territories on or before September 1, 1905 and were now residents of the Province of Alberta, and to the first child born in Alberta in

1980; silver medallions were given to residents achieving the age of 75 and resident in Alberta subsequent to the formation of the province, as well as to each child born on September 1, 1980 in Alberta.

*A l'occasion du 75e anniversaire de la formation de la province de l'Alberta (1905-1980), le gouvernement provincial presenta des médailles commémoratives aux personnes suivantes:*

Legal residents who were recipients of gold medallions/Résidents de Legal: Helen M.B. Casavant, Edna Cormier, Adelard W.J. de Champlain, Arthur R. Leguerrier, Caroline L. Lessard, Edouard Mercier, Georges M. Montpetit, Marguerite Préfontaine, Lillian Reinholt, Emile W. Savoie, Eugène Thérout, Jean E. Tieulié and/et Noël Tieulié. Recipients not resident but born in Legal/Réceptiendaires non-résidents mais nés à Legal: Thomas J. Belley, Blandine L. Landry and/et Carl Meskowski.

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## **FEDERAL**

### **LEGAL RESIDENT WHO SERVED AS FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

**Walter Van De Walle  
1986-1993**

Walter Van De Walle was born west of St. Albert and moved to Legal with his parents and sister in 1944. In 1950, he married Fernande Préfontaine and together with his family, operate Vanalta Farm. He is active in the community, served on the school board and was councillor of the Municipal District of Sturgeon for 20 years. In recognition for his contributions to agriculture and to rural Alberta, Walter was inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1985.

Walter was elected Member of Parliament in a by-election in the Pembina Constituency on September 29, 1986 as a Progressive Conservative member. He was re-elected in the 1988 general election in the newly formed federal riding of St. Albert.

*Walter est né à l'ouest de St-Albert et déménagea à Legal avec sa famille en 1944. En 1950, il épousa Fernande Préfontaine et ensemble ils opèrent la ferme familiale Vanalta. Walter fut membre de la commission scolaire et conseiller de la Municipalité de Sturgeon pendant 20 ans. En reconnaissance de sa contribution à l'agriculture, Walter fut nommé au Temple de la Renommée Agricole en 1985.*



Walter Van De Walle, Member of Parliament, 1986-1993

*Walter fut élu député de la circonscription de Pembina comme membre du parti conservateur dans l'élection partielle de 1986. Il fut réélu lors de l'élection fédérale en 1988, dans la circonscription de St-Albert jusqu'en 1993. Il est le premier citoyen de Legal à être élu Membre du Parlement.*

**MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO HAVE SERVED IN OUR AREA/DEPUTES FEDERAUX QUI ONT REPRESENTÉ CETTE REGION**

**Jasper Edson Constituency/Circonscription de Jasper Edson**

- Walter Kuhl (1935-1949)
- John Welbourne (1949-1953)
- Charles Yuill (1953-1958)
- Hugh Horner (1958-1967)
- Doug Caston (1967-1968)

**Pembina Constituency/Circonscription de Pembina**

- Jack Bigg (1968-1972)
- Dan Hollands (1972-1974)
- Peter Elzinga (1974-1986)
- Walter Van De Walle (1986-1988)

**St. Albert Constituency/Circonscription de St-Albert**

- Walter Van De Walle (1988-1993)
- John Williams (1993-)

**MEDAILLE DU GOUVERNEUR GENERAL/GOVERNOR GENERAL'S MEDAL**

In 1992, Germaine Nault of Legal was awarded the Governor General's Commemorative Medal on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation. Walter Van De Walle, Member of Parliament, made the presentation. This award was presented to citizens for their outstanding contribution to their community, fellow citizens and to Canada.



Walter Van De Walle, Member of Parliament for the St. Albert Constituency, presents the medal to Germaine Nault: Richard & Denis Nault, Rachelle (Nault) Hennessy, Michel Nault, Carmen Nault, Germaine holding medal, Walter Van De Walle

*Germaine Nault a été honorée en 1992 à l'occasion du 125e anniversaire du Canada. Walter Van De Walle, député fédéral, lui a remis une médaille du Gouverneur général reconnaissant son apport et son dévouement au bien-être des Canadiens.*

**O CANADA**

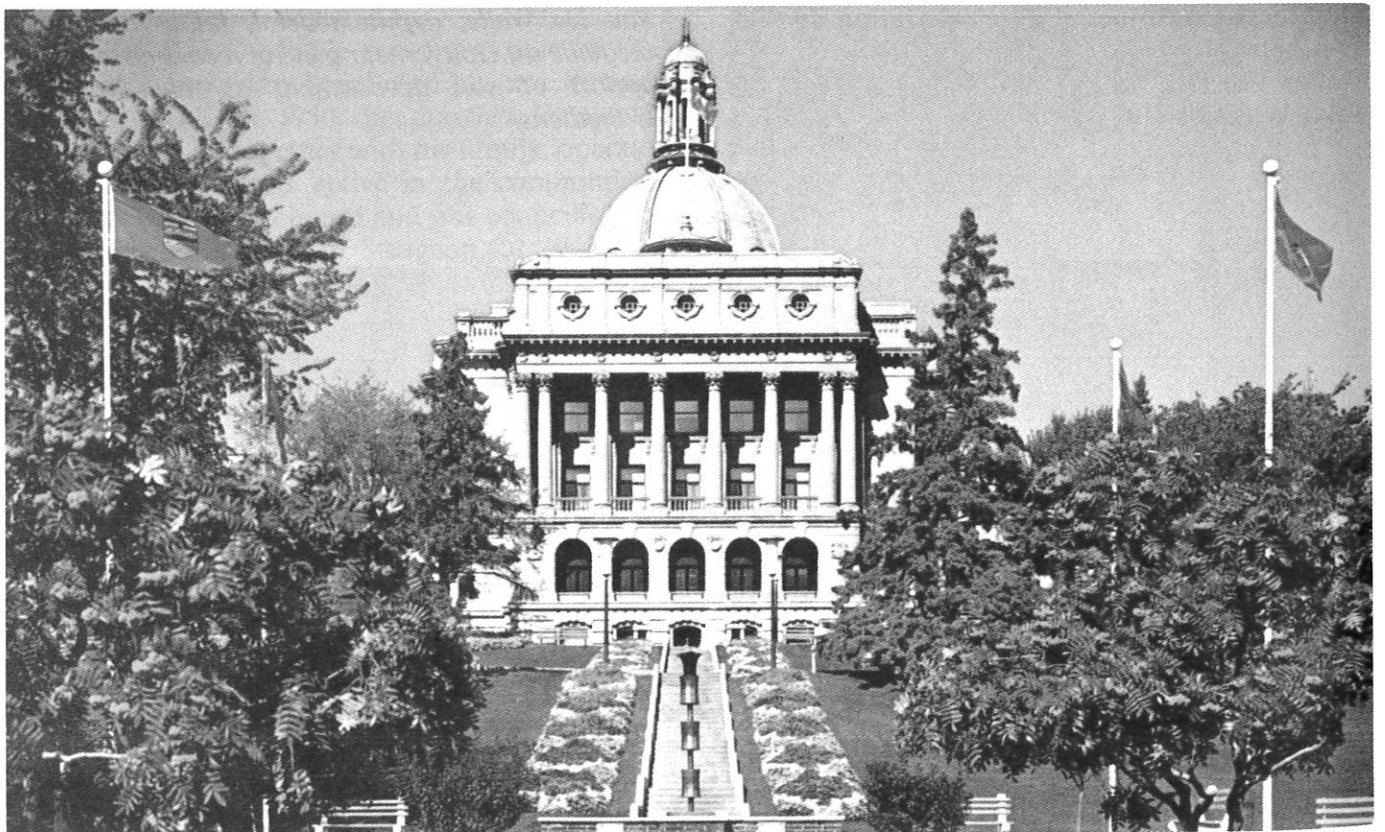
*O Canada  
Our home and native land!  
True patriot love  
in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts  
we see thee rise,  
The True North  
strong and free!  
From far and wide,  
O Canada,  
We stand on guard  
for thee.  
God keep our land  
glorious and free!  
O Canada,  
we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada,  
we stand on guard for thee.*

*O Canada!  
Terre de nos aïeux,  
Ton front est ceint  
de fleurons glorieux!  
Car ton bras  
sait porter l'épée,  
Il sait porter  
la croix!  
Ton histoire  
est une épopée  
Des plus  
brillants exploits.  
Et ta valeur,  
de foi trempée,  
Protégera nos foyers  
et nos droits,  
Protégera nos foyers  
et nos droits.*

O CANADA – National Anthem of Canada



Parliament Buildings, Ottawa



Alberta Legislature, Edmonton, Alberta