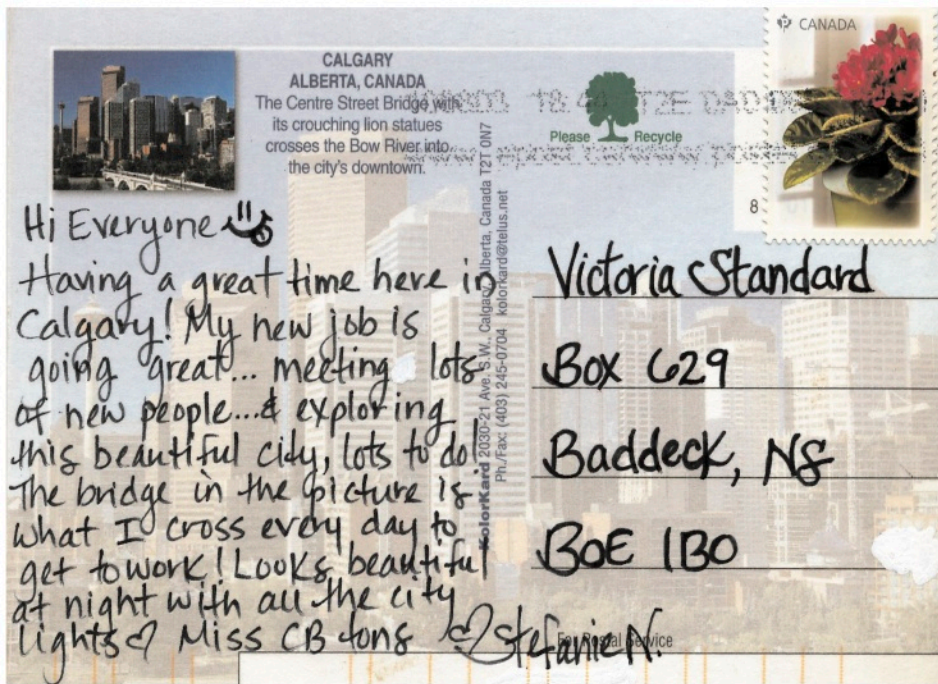
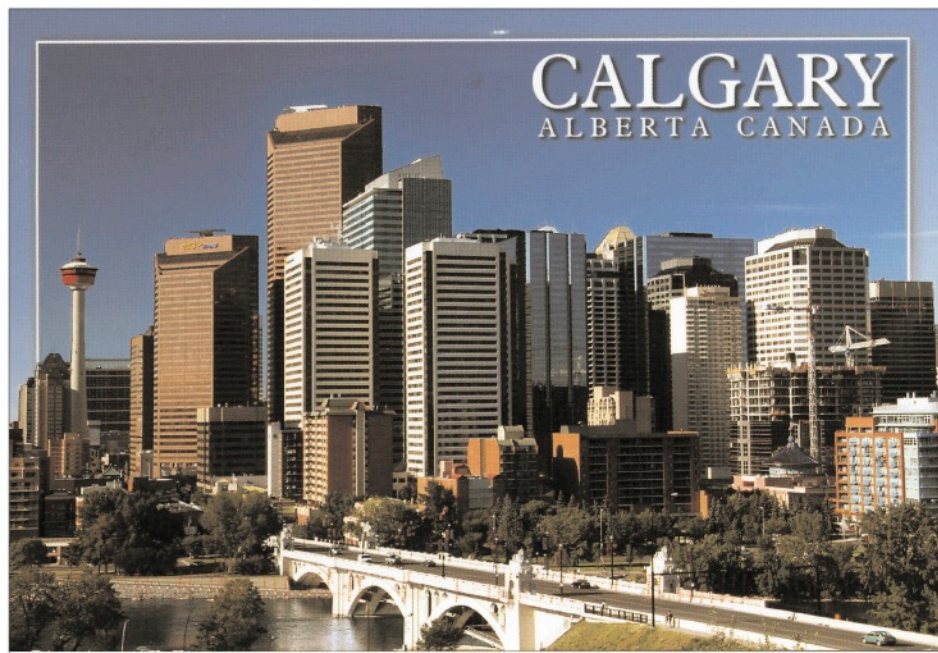


# Postcards from beyond the County lines



# Old fashioned picnic will celebrate local history



**Baddeck Academy, May 1940 - Back row: Kay McLean, Margaret MacRitchie, Betty O'Toole, Sadie MacDonald, Mary Harrington, Jeanette MacFarlane, Kay Campbell and Jessie Murray. Front row: Mary Currie, Christine Leaver, Hazel Dennison, Florence MacDermid, Dorothy Yates, Annie Hutchison and unknown.**

### Baddeck

Before the summer is over and the kids head back to school, step back to another era. Join the Baddeck & Area Historical Society to celebrate a simpler time at an Old Time Picnic on the grounds of the original Baddeck Academy.

The society, which has a membership of 25, was formed less than a year ago. In February, the group of history enthusiasts helped the Victoria County Archives to organize and collect local sport and recreation photos for a Heritage Day display during the Olympics.

"Our mandate includes not only collecting information about this area's people, places and events, but also that we present the information gathered, to the public in public forums," said Society president Don Morrison.

"With that in mind, we are collecting photos and reminiscences from former Baddeck Academy students and teachers to be displayed at our picnic. It is our hope that we will have an annual celebration like this, highlighting a local landmark, so that we can learn more about specific aspects of Baddeck history," Morrison said.

The original Baddeck Academy was built on a grassy field near the centre of the village sometime in the early 1850's. In December of 1895, the school was the site of the formation of the nation's first Home & School Association, when local resident Mabel Bell, wife of telephone inventor

Alexander Graham Bell, encouraged teachers and parents to come together to discuss the education of Baddeck's children. Mabel Bell was also helped to organize pre-kindergarten classes at the school and often hosted picnics for the students at their nearby estate, Beinn Bhreagh.

"Years ago, there often were Labour Day picnics - days to celebrate the last few days of the summer. We are hoping to recall those days with this event," Morrison said.

Activities planned for the day include old fashioned games sure to bring back a memory or two, such as 'Kick the Can' and a treasure hunt. Old style bunting and cloth pennants will be strung around the grounds and there will be a display of class photos for all to enjoy. Local residents will be dressed in Victorian era costumes and oatcakes, biscuits and homemade fudge will be available. Song books are being prepared so everyone can join in for a sing along and the Baddeck Nursery School will sell refreshing drinks at a lemonade stand.

"Our goal is to highlight portions of Baddeck's history all while having lots of fun!" Morrison said.

The first annual Old Time Picnic takes place Saturday, August 28 from 2-4 p.m. The original Baddeck Academy grounds are located on Shore Road, between MacAulay's Garage and Twinning Street, in Baddeck.

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