

**MURAL & SCULPTURE LOCATIONS
DOWNTOWN HIGH RIVER**



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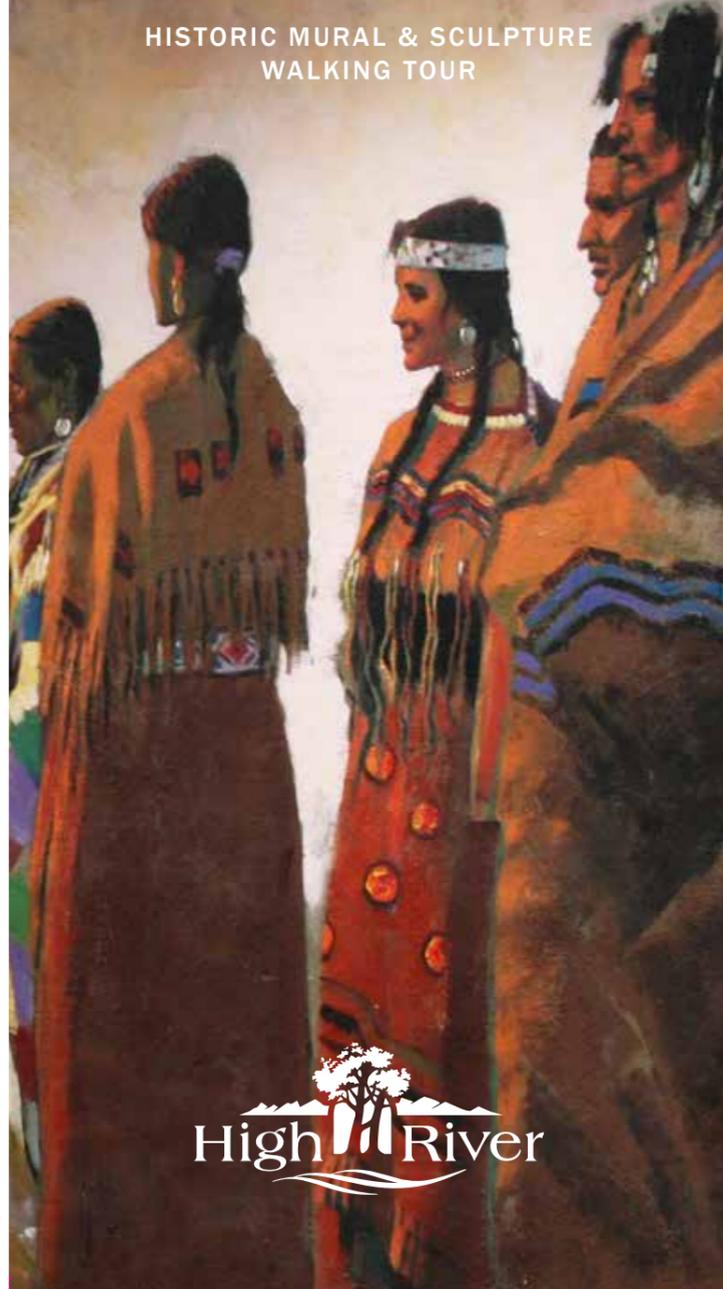
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HIGH RIVER discover

HISTORIC MURAL & SCULPTURE WALKING TOUR



High River's rich history and stories of its intriguing residents are told on this walking tour of historic murals.

Creativity comes alive in downtown High River! Since a group of dedicated citizens in the 1990s started this tour, there have been several new mural additions, as well as sculptures and other works from local artists. Continue your art experience by visiting the many local artisans and galleries located in venues across town.



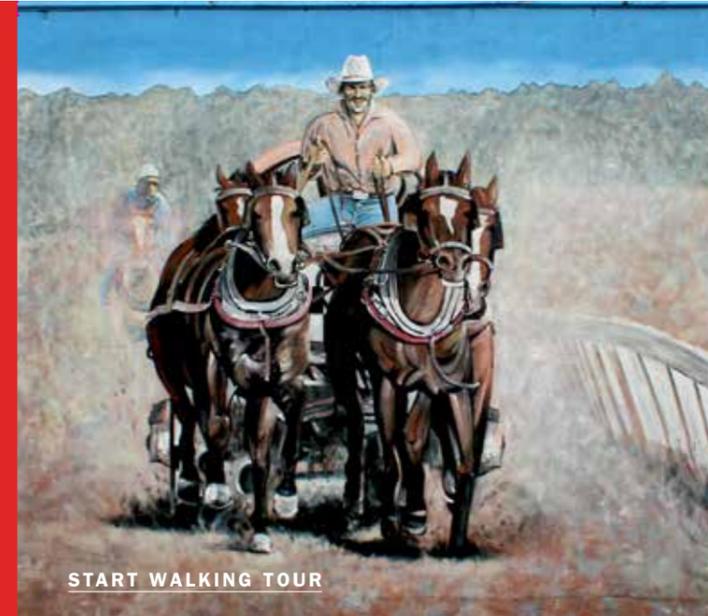
Community Piano

Downtown comes alive with the gift of music throughout the summer as residents and visitors alike play the community piano, bringing joy to the people walking by and listening. This project has been made possible entirely by volunteer and community donations.



High River Art Walk

High River is home to many amazing local artists, and some of their work is displayed on lightpost banners located throughout town. This project is funded and organized by the community with new artist's work being added to the collection each year.



START WALKING TOUR

Chuckwagon Races

PAUL VAN GINKEL, 1993

1

Chuckwagon racing is a western tradition that had its beginnings during the days of "open range" ranching, when chuckwagons were used as mobile camp kitchens. At the 1923 Calgary Stampede, Guy Weadick introduced the 'Cowboy's Chuckwagon Race', and it became one of the most popular events. Each year in June, High River hosts the North American Chuckwagon Championships. The drivers in this mural have won a combined total of 14 Calgary Stampede championships and 11 World Professional Chuckwagon Association Championships.



Old Woman's Buffalo Jump

STEVE JONES, 1990

2

The Old Women's buffalo jump ("Old" refers to the age of the jump) is located 13 km south of High River. It was discovered during a flash flood in 1952. Excavations in 1958/59 revealed bones and artifacts more than 2000 years old. Before the Plains tribes had horses and guns, they would run herds of buffalo off steep cliffs. Warriors would wait below with arrows, knives and clubs to kill any animals that survived the fall.



The Medicine Tree

BRENT LAYCOCK, 1990

3

The Medicine tree was two cottonwood trees joined together by a branch about 15 feet from the ground. It was located by the Highwood River about six miles west of town. The tree was believed to have spiritual and healing powers and was a favourite First Nations camping place. It fell over during a windstorm in 1958, but part of it has been preserved.



Cattle Drive at the 'D' Ranch on Pekisko Creek

JACK RIGAUX, 1990

4

High River's first mural was inspired by a photograph taken by Mary Cartwright on the D Ranch near Longview. Moving large herds of cattle through open country was a huge undertaking and required special skills and patience.



The Opening of the High River Club

ZHONG RU HUANG, 2007

5

In 1905, the club rooms of the newly-formed High River Club (so named in its official charter) were opened with a formal ball. The ladies were dressed "to the nines" in the latest formal fashions. Local First Nations wore their own finery for the proceedings. After one more formal reception, and a later visit by the fundraising Sisters of Lacombe Home, women never again graced the premises of what became known as the High River Men's Club.



Fort Spitzee

TERRY WINTER, 1992

6

In the late 1800s, many whiskey traders from south of the border came to southern Alberta and set up trading forts, where they exchanged liquor, arms and ammunition for furs and buffalo hides. There were several forts on the Sheep and Highwood Rivers, but the largest was Fort Spitzee. There were at least two other posts also known as 'Spitzee'. These posts proved to be disastrous for the First Nations people.



Log Jam on the Highwood

KEITH HOLMES, 1991

7

In the early days, timber was cut in the mountains and floated down the Highwood River. Along the river, where logs would be known to jam, men with long pike poles would be waiting to keep the logs moving. If a jam occurred, the boss would work his way out to the key log, where he would place dynamite. The explosion would clear the jam. This mural depicts a log jam, which occurred in 1891 on the OH Ranch west of High River.



Supply Trains Here

TERRY GREGORASCHUK, 1991-92

8

This mural depicts an early small town scene. Excursions to town were few and far between for homesteaders and ranching families. The arrival of the supply train provided an opportunity for people to socialize and get caught up on the latest news.



Aviation History in High River

DOUG DREIDIGER, 1992-94

9

The first mural (facing east) features squadron leader 'Ack Ack Leitch', one of Canada's outstanding aviators and a long-time resident of High River. He was awarded both the Military Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was stationed in High River at the Air Station and was later promoted to Officer Commanding. The parachutists are Flight Lieutenant Carter, M.M. seen making the first local jump at the High River Air Station in 1926, and stunt man Roy Lomheim demonstrating his free-fall dive to students from the No. 5 Elementary Flying Training School in the 1940s.

The south-facing mural shows an inspection at the No. 5 E. F. T. S., which operated on the former High River Air Station site from 1941 to 1944. The west-facing mural depicts an aerial fire patrol carried out by members of the Canadian Air Force who manned the High River Air Station, which opened in 1921. Carrier pigeons were used until ground to air communications were established.



High River's First Nurse

10

Marie Meyer Davis was a trained nurse who lived and worked in the High River area from 1903 to 1939. She was an invaluable assistant to pioneer doctor Dr. G. D. Stanley and accompanied him to many out-of-town cases, often driving the horse-drawn vehicle while he slept. During the 1918 influenza epidemic, when the doctor was too busy to make all the calls, she often worked alone. This mural was a joint legacy project between the 1996 High River Science Festival Committee and Science Alberta, and it is a reminder of the significant contribution science makes to our everyday lives.

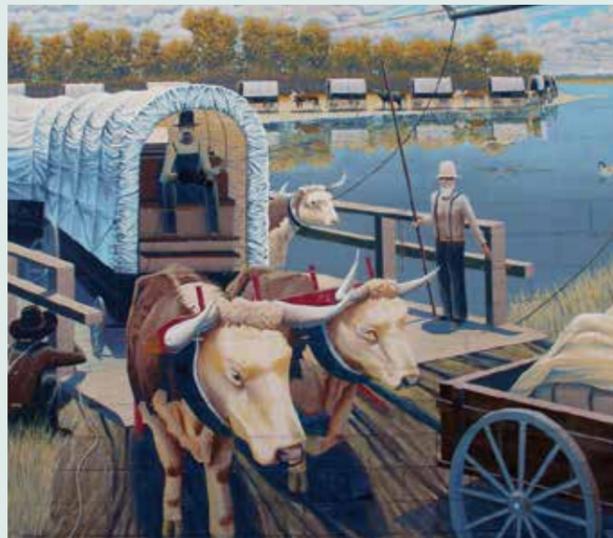


Rt. Hon. Joe Clark

J. M. COMPTON, 1994

11

High River native Joe Clark was Canada's 16th and youngest Prime Minister, taking office at age 39. His family has deep roots in High River, where his Grandfather Charles Clark Sr. started the *High River Times* in 1905. His father Charles Clark Jr. then operated the Times from 1949 until he sold it in 1966 when Joe and his brother Peter decided to pursue other careers. Joe served in politics for many years, including serving as a Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre until he retired in 2004.



Spitzee Crossing

STEVEN JONES, 1994

12

Spitzee Crossing was the only accessible place to cross the Highwood River on the old Macleod Trail from Fort Macleod to Calgary. In 1886, when flood waters made the river impassable, Buck Smith built and operated a ferry. A bridge replaced the ferry in 1887.



W.O. Mitchell

J. M. COMPTON, 1994

13

W. O. (Bill) Mitchell is one of Canada's best-loved writers. His work includes such Canadian classics as *Who Has Seen the Wind* and *Jake and the Kid*. Bill, his wife Merna and their family lived in High River from 1944 to 1968 (except for three years when he was fiction editor at *Macleans*). Bill taught English, Social Studies and Drama at High River High School. Stories of Bill's exploits in High River are numerous, and he is fondly remembered by many locals. In his later years, he and Merna lived mainly in Calgary, but they chose the High River Cemetery as their final resting place.



George Emerson Statue

RICH ROENISCH, 2005

14

In 1879, George Emerson and his partner Tom Lynch brought 1000 head of cattle from Montana to the north side Highwood River. Sometimes known as "The Father of High River", he was a very large man. His shirts had an 18.5" neck, 64" chest and were 31' 2" from head to tail. He was a business partner and friend of rancher George Lane and the statue faces George Lane Park.



New Roots

MICHELLE LOUGHERY, 2016

15

The design reflects the unity of the community working together to move forward through spirit and determination. Bold paint strokes encompass a background of a heart, entwined with the horses' legs to reflect the strength of the herd, young life and new roots. The design was selected by the community from artist submissions from across Canada.



Wolf Sculpture

ROCKY BARSTAD & LORNE EADIE, MID 1990

16

In 1893, railway station agent C. T. Lewis rounded up a crew to transplant cottonwood saplings around the first High River train station that was located here. Three leftover trees were transplanted on the southwest side of the station. In the mid 1990s, the tree was diagnosed with a disease and designated for the chopper. Part of it was saved when local artists Rocky Barstad and Lorne Eadie created and carved the wolves.