

ELLA Noon Hour Presentations Winter 2022 - ZOOM Presentations

Presenter Biographies and Talk Summaries

January 21, 2022

David Ridley, Edmonton Heritage Council

Title: Framing, Naming and Claiming: How the Past is Present in Edmonton

Description: Edmonton's historical narrative has evolved over time and arguably, has not been well studied, understood and a substantial element in public debate and citizen identity. This has begun to shift, connected to current social and political movements in Edmonton and beyond. Edmonton history and heritage organizations, such as the Edmonton Heritage Council, are thinking about how to respond to these shifts and challenges to conventional narratives about Edmonton's history.

Brief Bio: As Executive Director of the Edmonton Heritage Council, David has guided the organization's engaging approach to history and heritage since 2011, through the Heritage Community Investment Program, Edmonton Maps Heritage and the Edmonton City as Museum Project. Prior to this, he served as Director of Research for the Heritage Community Foundation and as a curatorial researcher with the Folklife Program at the Royal Alberta Museum, documenting historical experience and memory in Alberta's cultural communities. In his 25 years in the field of heritage he has been involved in key community discussions about culture and place, including the renewal of Edmonton's 10 Year Arts and Heritage Plan, *Connections & Exchanges*.

January 28th

Dr. Valerie Crooks

Title: Medical Tourism: Insights, Impacts and Implications

Description: We often hear about Canadians going abroad for private medical procedures, and recommending it to others. But these accounts are only part of the story. Many countries are using this as a way to diversify their tourism industry, use underutilized healthcare capacity, and as a strategic form of economic investment. Dr. Crooks will reflect on the lessons learned and give specific examples from her upcoming book about the ethical, equity and safety issues for the destination countries, and for Canadians considering being medical tourists.

Brief Bio: Dr. Valerie Crooks is a Professor in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University, and the Canada Research Chair in Health Service Geographies. She has completed research around the world, published over 200 books, journal articles, editorials, commentaries

and book chapters, and is the founding editor of the book series: Global Perspectives on Health Geography.

February 4th

Debby Shocter, Former Archivist, JAHSENA

Title: A Brief History of the Edmonton Jewish Community

Description: An overview of the history of the Edmonton Jewish Community from 1893 to the present, starting with the arrival of Abe Cristall, Edmonton's first Jewish citizen. Including information about the various Jewish institutions in the City, waves of immigration, and important figures in the Edmonton Jewish and general communities. Including lots of photographs, and information about resources, organizations, holidays and celebrations, historical events and anti-Semitism.

Brief Bio: Debby Shocter became the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton in May, 2014. She formerly served as the Archivist for the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, and as President of the Archives Society of Alberta. She is a founding member of the Edmonton Heritage Council and the Premier's Council for Arts and Culture. She is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and an Honouree of the Edmonton Historical Board. She has written and edited for many publications and organizations, including Prentice Hall Canada, Lone Pine Publishing, local Jewish publications, The Edmonton Journal, Our Stories (Phoenix Multi-Faith Society for Harmony) and Living Legacies II, as well as the academic publications Canadian Jews in Time, Space and Spirit and the Journal of Canadian Jewish Studies.

February 11th

Slavo Cech

Title: Blacksmithing as art: abstracting nature into sculptural forms

Description: Slavo will be speaking to us live from his workshop in Edmonton, where he creates unique sculptures, architectural elements and works of art. He will take us on the journey from idea to inception, giving us insight into the mind and techniques of an artist who uses the ancient art of blacksmithing to meld an appreciation of nature with modern sensibilities to create one-of-a-kind pieces of art.

Brief Bio: Slavo immigrated with his family from the former Czechoslovakia in 1968. He studied art history and painting, and has travelled extensively, collecting art and artifacts. He explored wood carving, mixed media sculpture, jewelry making and painting before turning to wrought iron. He has been a working artisan blacksmith and metal artist now for over 30 years. He has

made everything from candle holders to garden benches, railings, gates, bed frames and furniture, large commercial projects as well as specialized commissioned works like the star at the top of Edmonton's Official Christmas Tree in Churchill Square, and a candelabra for the Jewish Community to commemorate the Holocaust. More recently, Slavo has turned his sights to sculptures depicting natural forms both large and small, for indoor and outdoor display. He also started YEGArthunt, where he hides small sculptures in the River Valley and the public can follow his clues to hunt for them.

February 18th

Speaker: Cam Hayden

Title: How Music Made My Life Sing.

Description: How does a kid from Edmonton, living in Calgary get a job in Edmonton at the one radio station, CKUA, in the world he could work at? How did that fortuitous happening open all the rest of the doors in his life?

Brief Bio: Cam Hayden currently hosts CKUA Friday Nights Blues Party. He also runs the City Media Club, and a production company called Wingtip Productions, and twenty years ago started and still operates a weird hybrid, the annual Edmonton Blues Festival, a for-profit festival that includes volunteers.

February 25th

Dr. David Hogan

Title: Canadian Longitudinal Study on Ageing: Lessons Learned on Ageing in Canada

Description: The CLSA is research infrastructure that enables state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary population-based research that will ultimately inform evidenced-based decision-making at both a personal and community level, and lead to better health and quality of life for Canadians as we age. Funded by the federal government, it involves 51,338 participants, over 160 researchers, and 26 post-secondary institutions across Canada. In this talk we will review the history of the CLSA, how it is organized, and what data are being collected on ageing in Canada.

Brief Bio: Born in Baie Comeau QC, David attended universities in Nova Scotia, Alberta, and Ontario. A specialist in geriatric medicine, he joined the University of Calgary in 1990 where he held the *Brenda Strafford Foundation Chair in Geriatric Medicine* for 25 years and is now the Academic Lead of the *Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging*. He has served as Chair of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Specialty Committee in Geriatric Medicine,

President of the Canadian Geriatrics Society, and editor of the Canadian Geriatrics Journal. David has authored over 320 peer-reviewed publications and has a long-standing interest in aging studies. David has been the Local Principal Investigator for the Calgary Data Collection Site of the CLSA since its start.

March 4th

Hunter Cardinal

Title: Treaty Acknowledgements: Why We Do Them & What Is Next

Description: In this session, participants will develop an introductory understanding of land and treaty acknowledgements in Canada and have the opportunity to create a personal acknowledgement with this newfound understanding. It will feature a presentation in which Naheyawin will explore the origins of this kind of acknowledgement, the nature of national and local discourse surrounding the topic, and discuss what the future of these acknowledgements might be.

Brief Bio: Hunter is an actor as well as co-founder & director of story at Naheyawin. In 2019, he was recognized as Edmonton's Best Actor and awarded a place in Edmonton's esteemed Top 40 Under 40 class of 2018. Established in early 2016, Naheyawin aims to reinvigorate the spirit of peace, friendship, and understanding that forms the foundation of the Numbered Treaties. Naheyawin ultimately strives to foster the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to move toward a good future by working together.

March 11th

PJ Perry

Title: Jazzman PJ Perry: His Life and Career in the Canadian and International Music Business

Description: PJ will talk about learning the profession of making jazz and the exciting places music has taken him around the world.

Brief Bio: PJ Perry was born in Calgary and learned to play the clarinet and piano before becoming a saxophonist for his father's band at the age of 14. He is an Internationally renowned Jazz Saxophonist who has won numerous music awards, including a Juno. He has shared the stage with countless Jazz greats such as Dizzy Gillespie; has an Honorary Doctorate of Law, from the University of Alberta and is a recipient of the Order of Canada.