

OLDS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Step Into the Past to Build the Future"

Historical Overview of Olds Agricultural Society

Important Dates in History

1894	First Fair in Olds Fifteen years after the first Fair in Edmonton and eight years after the inaugural Fair in Calgary.
December 9th, 1899	Inaugural Meeting of Olds Agricultural Society O. S. Moore elected as Secretary Membership fees were \$2, eighteen members Subsequent executive members reads as a "whos who" of Olds and area citizens - Fred Shackleton, Adoniram (A. J.) Samis, Louis & Jean Latimer, Neil Leatherdale, Arvin Bull, Ian Harvie, Chic Miller, Dr. Herb Anderson, Adolph Rosehill, Ken Gillrie and the list goes on.
1900	Motion to purchase Subdivision 5 of Section 5 (apparently from Silverthorn's at a cost of \$2500 for a full quarter section)
1903	Fair Admission set at \$0.25
1903	Olds Agricultural Society merges with the Trotting Horse Association (Turf Society) Membership increased from 49 in 1901 to 179 in 1903
1904	Taxes set at \$2.50
1917	Present site of the Fair grounds were acquired from the Federal Government
1949	Land donated to the Town of Olds for the construction of the Ice Arena and Curling Rink. (400' X 450' in the northwest corner)
1948	Fair Admission set at \$1.25
1948	A partnership was formed with OAS, Olds Legion and the Curling Club to erect a new building. Also donated \$1000 to the Curling Club.
1950	Donated Lot B in Block 4 to National Defense (Present Recreation Center)
1961	First professional rodeo added to the Fair
1964	Upgraded to "B" Fair status
1964	Constructed original Cow Palace
1965	Constructed race track and infield
1968	Chamber of Commerce took over management of the parade
1969	Rodeo produced jointly by OAS and Olds College
1969	OAS offered Crown Assets Corp. \$5000 to purchase the Armories. The Town took over ownership with OAS receiving annual usage.

1976 Rodeo was no longer included as a component of the Fair

1977 Name changed to Mountain View County Fair

1978 Kiwanis Club of Olds donates \$5000 plus some labor for 10 years free use of the Kiwanis Barn

1978-1981 OAS received grant funding, donations and insurance proceeds to rebuild the original Cow Palace that burned during the fire of 1978

1981 Decision reached not to relocate to Olds College

1982 Olds Grizzly Hockey Booster Club took over the Beer Gardens

1982 An agreement reached with Olds College for extended use of OAS facilities during the months of November to April

1983 Rodeo returns (at a loss of \$8000), Lions Club assists. Heavy Horses are stabled in the Sportsplex

1983 Classified as an "A" Status Fair

1984 Special Riding begins at OAS Facilities, still a regular feature of our events schedule

1985 OAS donates land for the construction of the Municipal Library

1985 Discussions again resurface regarding the possibility of relocating to Olds College

1985 Birth of the original Farmer's Market

1986 OAS becomes debt free and decides to begin investing a portion of the LOTTO Funds that are received annually for future improvements

1987 Dairy Show declared "All-Western," retains this status today

1987 OAS financially rescued the local 4-H Clubs when Water Valley Meat Packers bankruptcy left the members \$4700 short

1987 Donated land for the construction of the Evergreen Center

1988 Purchased the Peterson and Van Tighem properties (21 acres on the south side of 54th Street)

1990 Built the Caluori Pavilion

1991 Introduction of "One Pay Gate"

1992 Formulation of Joint Use Agreement between Town of Olds and OAS regarding the ball diamonds and soccer fields (expires July 2007)

1993 Grandstand constructed

1994 Administration Building erected

1995 Construction of Stables Barn

1999 Celebrated Olds Agricultural Society's Centennial. Return of professional rodeo to the Fair (produced by Main Event Inc.)

2001 Negotiated an accepted offer to purchase the Dr. Harvey Cole 20 acre parcel that joins existing property to the south. Offsite levies and development fees implemented by the Town of Olds made this purchase impossible

2001 Joins the Olds & District Chamber of Commerce, Olds College and the Town of Olds to form the Olds Institute of Community & Regional Development (primarily an economic development body)

2001 OAS donates \$20,000 to the Olds College for the Farm Succession Program

2001 OAS donates \$20,000 to the Pool 2000 Committee

2002 OAS' Volunteer Rodeo Committee begin producing a professional rodeo in conjunction with the Fair

2003 OAS joins a Chamber driven initiative to develop a physical center that will serve the needs of the community

2005 OAS and Olds College conduct first annual joint board meeting - develop a working committee to review potential partnership opportunities

2005 OAS received a \$3.8 million capital grant from Alberta Lotteries for capital improvements

2005 OAS revisits the potential purchase of the Dr. Harvey Cole property. Makes a successful formal request to the Town of Olds for the waiving of offsite levies and development fees.

2005 Official name change to Olds Fair & Rodeo

2005 OAS receives \$150,000 from the Rotary Club of Olds for development of a community center. This generous contribution resulted in a partnership that has OAS and the Rotarians working together to host the "Olds Tyme Music Festival" annually

2006 First Annual Chautauqua - Capital Campaign Launch

2006 OAS partners with CCIA (Canadian Cattle Identification Agency) to provide age verification services free of charge to producers as a satellite office.

2006 Purchase of Dr. Harvey Cole property.

2006 Partnership Agreement created with Olds College for the Gallop School (instructional opportunity for potential horse racing industry employees) hosted annually utilizing OAS' racetrack.

2007 Agreement in Principle reached between Olds College and OAS on the summer utilization of the College Riding Arena

2007 Construction of MegaDomes - 60,350 sq ft of space designed for livestock events

2008 Partnership formed with the Alberta Angus Association for OAS to fulfill fulltime administrative responsibilities and the production of newsletters.