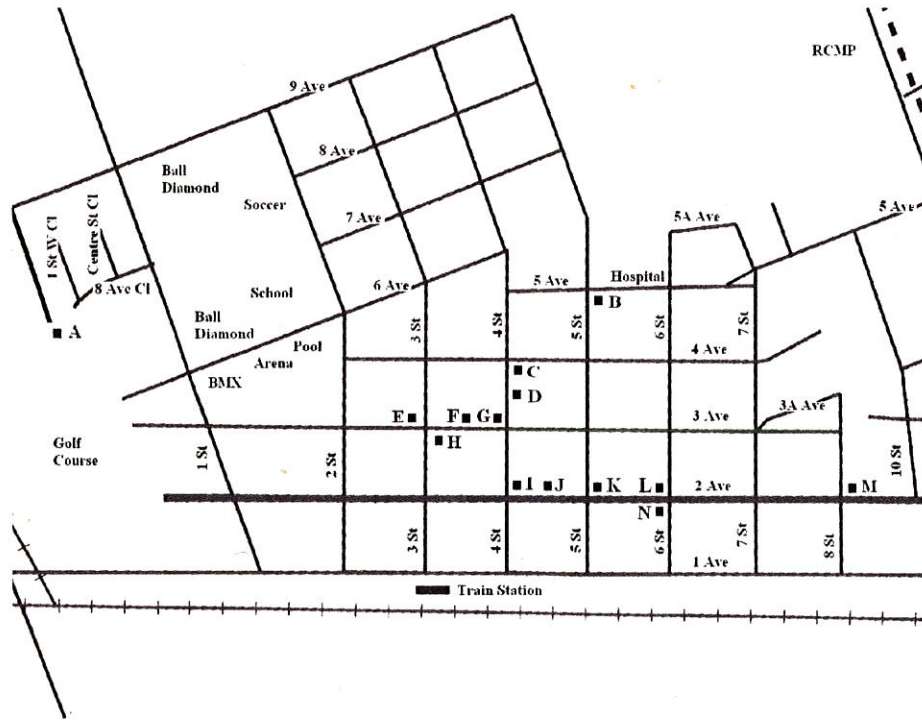


OTHERS PLACES OF INTEREST



- A. Recreation Complex
- B. Catholic Church
- C. Old AGT Office, now private residence
- D. First Town Office & Fire Hall, now private residence
- E. Presbyterian Church
- F. Old Catholic Church, now private residence
- G. Old Evangelical Free Church, now private residence
- H. Old Post Office, now private residence
- I. New Town Office
- J. Bassano Memorial Library & Park
- K. Community Hall
- L. Kinsmen Park
- M. New Evangelical Free Church
- N. Homecoming Campground

WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BASSANO



Main Street looking east



Main Street looking west

Map of Downtown Area

West		
	Pioneer Drop-In Centre	Armando's Bar & Grill
	C'hinook Credit Union	ATB Bank
	Bassano AG Foods	Bassano Liquor Store
		Elks Hall
		Old Town Office # 3
		3 ST
Bassano Times	Bassano IDA Pharmacy	Cochrane Hardware
	Creative Screen Arts	Old Bank / Dentist / Law Office
	Creative Screen Arts	Pro Insurance Group
	Bassano Flower & Gift	
	Old Drugstore	Karl's Place
	Old Grocery Store	
	Old Barber Shop	
	Western Financial Group	Pioneer Gas Co-Op
	Creations Unlimited	Canada Post
	Old Ken's Men's Wear	
	Old Harness Shop	Laundromat
	Empty Bottle	Old Bakery
		Harry's Restaurant
	Old Town Office # 2	
		4 ST
Skill Metals Fabricators	Imperial Hunter Hotel	New Town Office
		Bassano Dental
		Bow Valley Trading
		Newell Further Education
	Old Honey Plant	Bassano Memorial Library
	Global Thermoelectric Plant 2	Schaffer Paint & Supply
		5 ST
	Raw Concepts Studio	Community Hall
	Homecoming Park & Campground	Kinsmen Park
		East

purchasing, for \$100.00, the vacated Seventh Day Adventist building, and a lot of land for \$10.00, in the fall of 1950. The Dedication of the Church was held in October of 1956. Early in 1982, it was decided that the congregation had outgrown the building they were in. Lots were purchased on Second Avenue and a ground breaking ceremony took place on March 21, 1982. Shortly thereafter construction was underway, with most the of the labor being done by volunteers from the church. The congregation moved into their new building on June 1, 1983.

H. Old Post Office

The first post office in Bassano was in Robert Struthers' store. When he sold the store he retained the post office and moved it to a small building next to the store. In 1912 the Government started surveying for a new building. However it wasn't until April 1915 that the cornerstone of the building was laid on the southeast corner of Third Ave and Third Street. The completed building was open for business in December of 1915. The dignified building housed the post office on the main floor and the RCMP detachment on second floor. The post office remained here until 1988 when it was moved to the renovated Credit Union building on Main Street. The old post office was sold to a private owner and it was remodeled and renovated into several apartments.

Bassano Public School 1911 - 1957

The first school room in Bassano was in the old Silver Grill Cafe on Railroad Avenue. It opened on Monday, May 9, 1910 with 30 students which was the capacity of the school.

The Bassano Development Company donated a six acre plot of land and a new four room brick school building was completed in 1911 on the present school grounds. At that time there were 76 students enrolled. In May of 1912, there were 128 students enrolled, teaching staff had been doubled and the board gave authority to open two more rooms in the basement and add two more teachers. In 1927 electric lights were installation. Then in 1930 two more school rooms were added on the north side of the school. The first Grade Twelve Class graduated from the Bassano School in 1932. In January of 1957 the present school was opened and after 45 years of service the old school was torn down.

The new school was added on to twice to become the size it is today. Recent renovations and upgrades were completed and the school is now serving 333 students with a staff of 40.

businesses and residential needs all had to be met. Doctors, Druggist and even a Coroner were required as well as cemetery services. Needing space the Town Office eventually moved down the street to the corner on Main Street (439 - 2 Ave). These buildings were then sold and have been used as a private residence ever since.

E. Knox Presbyterian Church

Knox Ministers of the Presbyterian Church worked in the area around Bassano for many years prior to the establishment of the Knox congregation in 1909. The first church building was constructed in 1910 (on the corner of 4 Ave and 3 street) was noted in the newspaper as being the first church in Bassano. As the congregation grew so did the church. An addition and porch were built on in 1921. Again the congregation continued to grow and a Christian Education Building was built on the corner of Third and Third in 1962. This building has served the community well with the CGIT, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and many more clubs using the space. The existing church was added on to this C.E. Building and the dedication service was held in 1986.

F. Old St. Columba Catholic Church 1917 - 2006

This building was originally on Main Street and was used as the Post Office from 1906 to 1915. When the Union Bank was built on the corner of Third Street it was moved to 1 Ave. It was then owned by N.B. Davis of the Indiana Farm, Mr. Davis then sold and moved the structure to this location for a Roman Catholic Church in April of 1917. The 26 by 22 foot building was renovated at that time and a small porch was added. In 1947 the parish council decided the Church was too small and the beams were rotting. The Church had a twenty foot extension added on, a full basement put underneath and the beams replaced. In 1959 the water line was installed. In 1982 it was decided to finish the basement and install a bathroom.

In the 1980's a building fund was established and it was the hope in the future a new church could be built in Bassano. The former Anglican Church was bought in 2006 and the Catholic Congregation moved to that location. This building is now a private residence.

G. Old Evangelical Free Church

M. New Evangelical Free Church

In the early 1940s, Rev. Clarence Meller came from the Town of Brooks to hold street meetings in Bassano. Hymns were sung with instrumental accompaniment, and Mr. Meller preached to all who would listen. From these outdoor meetings came a small group of interested people. By 1950 there was a definite need for a Church building. A few local men were instrumental in

Due to time restraints this first edition of the Walking Tour Brochure will concentrate on the oldest historic buildings still standing.

Elks' Hall (Ingram Block 338 Second Avenue.)

The Ingram Block was built about 1912, and for a while was occupied by the Ingram Co. Real Estate; the Quebec Bank and a pharmacy. Effort was made to match the architecture to that of the Union Bank (built in 1910) and the two appeared to be all one building. The Quebec Bank was amalgamated by the Royal Bank in 1917 and this branch was closed. The building was unoccupied for a number of years. It was then purchased by Mr. P. Ubertino in 1930 after his Gem Theatre was destroyed by fire. He remodeled the building for use as a picture theatre and was equipped for talking pictures with a seating capacity of about 200. When Mr. Ubertino opened the theatre he also gave it a new name, the Orpheum Theatre. In 1950 Joseph Uebell, moved to Bassano and operated the movie theatre, renaming it the Capitol Theatre. It was eventually closed in the 1960s when TV became popular in homes. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 487 was formed in 1964 and in 1965 the group purchased the old Capitol Theater. Renovations to this building went on for a few years and a considerable amount of work was carried out to complete this task. In 1976, a 35 by 70 foot one-storey addition was built on the west side of the Lodge. The official Opening for this addition was held on December 4, 1976.

Old Town Office #3 (Union Bank 340 Second Ave)

Originally built as the Union Bank in 1910 the building also housed the living quarters for the bank manager and his family on the top floor. The Union Bank's distinction was being the first chartered bank in Alberta, its extensive branch expansion into the prairie provinces logically placed a branch here in this booming centre. The Union Bank was amalgamated with the Royal Bank of Canada in 1925 and the name was changed to the Royal Bank of Canada. The Royal Bank remained here until the new structure, across the street to the south, was built. In 1974 the building was purchased by the Town of Bassano and became the Town Office and served as such until the new town Office was built in 2009.

Cochrane Hardware (Flanagan Bros. Hardware 402 Second Ave.)

Built in 1911 but bought in 1928 by the Flanagan Family, it was the third location for their Flanagan Bros' Hardware business. The three Flanagan brothers came to Bassano in the spring of 1909. The brothers purchased land north of the Red Deer River near Hutton where Arthur and Alexander established

body shop, and car detailing shop. The latest owner is Rick Beddows.

Hunter Imperial Hotel (401 Second Ave)

Built by Thomas Hunter, it open on October 12, 1911 under the name Hunter Hotel. The building was equipped with a diningroom and kitchen. The 48 upper rooms were wired for electric light and also fitted for natural gas. Each floor has its own furnished parlor leading out on to a spacious front balcony. The whole hotel was brick veneered, and was quoted as easily the largest building in town. In 1913 it was the scene of the first test of the new town water system that demonstrated a stream of water being projected higher than the hotel roof.

L.V.Birnie, proprietor during the 1930s changed the name to the Imperial Hotel. Other owners included Ted Nielson, then the Thorlaksons, brothers, Lorne and Freddie and Lorne's wife, Audrey (owned it from 1967 to 1992.) They sold to Don, Daryl and Jane Stuart. The latest owner, Bruce MacIntosh, has completely renovated the upstairs rooms and renamed it the Imperial Hunter Hotel.

Alpha Creamery and Honey Plant

In 1927 W.A Brodie bought the Shoop building and renovated it into a Creamery. The creamery business was growing and in 1944 over 200 thousand pounds of butter were shipped from the plant. Locally owned creameries were bought out by larger businesses and consolidated to larger urban areas. In the 1950s Freddie Rathje bought the creamery business from Alpha Dairies and started a side line of packaging honey. In 1956 the one millionth pound of honey was precessed at the plant. The honey business grew by leaps and bounds and the building was modernized, upgraded and added on to continually until it was the largest honey plant in Canada. The process of creaming honey was developed here at the Bassano plant by the Freddie Rathje and Henry Schaffer. The creaming process solved the problem of honey crystallization. In 1973 the original Creamery was torn down and a new office addition, on the west side, replaced it. In 1976 the business was sold to the Alberta Honey Producers Co-Op of Edmonton who closed the Bassano plant in 1982. The building has been sold several times over the years. Global ThermoElectric rents some of the space on the north side. Skill Metal Fabricators bought the south storage quonsets and has recently added on a large new office space.

Building Locations found on the Back page of Brochure

A. Recreation Complex

The building committee for the Sports Complex was formed in 1985 and comprised of members of the curling club, golf club, arena management, the Ag Society and Town Council. The committee was successful and the Grand Opening Ceremonies of the Bassano Recreation Complex took place in October

together they built the new store in 1908. Business was busy with the new settlers coming in and in 1911 Berry sold out his interest in the store and went to work with the CPR as a supply agent. A picture dated 1912 has the building with signs of Peirce Bros.Co. General Hardware on the front. The building was used by the legion for several years, until the 1950s. In 1962 Jack Christie purchased the building and set up a laundromat and plumbing business on the premises. The laundromat business was sold several times over the years and still remains on the premises. Other businesses operated in conjunction with the laundromat included a dry cleaner, hair salon, and massage clinic.

Harry's Restaurant (Royal Lumber Co. 438 Second Ave)

This brick building was constructed by the Royal Lumber Co. in 1946. The company had expanded and needed more retail space. They carried a complete line of furniture and household necessities. Les Spivey was manager of the lumber yard until 1964. After the lumber yard closed the building remained empty for several years. Over the next years it housed a waterbed store and then a furniture store. Harry Lee bought the building in ----- and built an addition on the east side, it was completely renovated and turned into a restaurant and lounge.

Bassano Flower & Gift (Meat Market 411-2 Ave)

Built in the early history of Bassano it is shown in old photos of the street. A view of the building shows the sign as G.H. Gebert, Central Meat Market. A news article for 1910 lists a new meat firm of Gebert & Evans. The floor was sloped to the rear of the building and a sewer for the ease of quick cleaning after the cutting of meat. The building then passed to Billie MacLean and then to Stan Haskayne in 1941. Stan continued to operate the Pioneer Meat Market until 1967 when he sold out to Hank and Marcella Seigersma. It then passed to Ed Chapman in 1973 and became Ed's Meat Market. The building was also used as a second-hand store and a private office by Bob Stiles. The Bassano Flower and Gift Shop has operated here since 2006.

Stiles "The Druggist" (413 Second Ave)

Built in 1912 it was the third location of the Stiles "The Druggist" business. The main floor has a loft and where the telephone exchange was located for a few years. Joe Stiles acted as night operator and May Thompson, (later to become Mrs. Stiles) was hired as the daytime operator. The second floor, furnished as business offices, was used by several business men, one being Dr. Harris, the first doctor in Bassano. During the 1930s the second floor was renovated and used as the family home by the Stiles family. The pharmacy continued to operate here until the fall of 1974 when a new building was built

a farming and ranching operation. Wallace, the youngest, remained in Bassano to establish the hardware business. As business and stock increased, the store location moved three times. In the 1960's Wallace's son, Wallace, took over the family business. The hardware store was sold in 1976 to Carl and Pat Block and Pete and Francis Steinbach, Sam Ion worked as the manager and it was called Sam's Place. Bob and Agnes Cochrane bought the business in 1983 and named it Cochrane Hardware. Agnes and son, Kelly, ran the business for three and a half years, then Kelly and wife, Michele, bought the business.

Old Law Office

(Canadian Bank of Commerce 406 Second Ave.)

The Canadian Bank of Commerce paid \$3,000 the highest price paid for an inside lot on Second Avenue at that time. The bank management foresaw a two storey structure, provided with all of the modern conveniences. The lower floor used for bank premises, while the second story was used as a place of residence for the bank staff. The Bank of Commerce was listed in the directories up to and including 1929. Dr. Keith, a dentist, moved to Bassano in the 1920s and in the 1930s bought the Bank building for his dental office and used the upstairs as the family residence. The family eventually moved to a house and the top floor was rented out. Dr. Keith continued to work in Bassano until his passing in 1977. Ben Plumer then bought the building in 1982 and used it as a law office. The building was sold again in 1992 is now used as a private residence.

Pro Insurance Agencies (Crown Lumber Co. 410 Second Ave.)

One of the earliest buildings in Bassano it was probably built about 1907. W.F Playfair, later to become the first mayor, ran the Crown Lumber Co. from this small office building. The lumber yard covered two lots on main street and also two lot across the back alley to the north. Eventually it was moved and in the late 1940s and 50s the building was used as a medical office by Drs. Mason, Faminow, and Diggins. It was then used as a beauty salon for a short time then George and Molly MacKay used it as their insurance office for about 10 years until they retired in 1978. The building was used as a barber shop by Brian Sanders from 1984-88. It became Bud Stewart's private office for a few years then returned to an insurance office, since 2004 it has been the Pro Insurance office

Laundromat (Bond & Berry 430 Second Ave.)

The large two story building is prominent in many of the earliest photos of Bassano with the large lettering of Bond & Berry on the east side. Frank Berry returned to the Bassano area at the urging of his friend Fred Bond and

1988. At that time the Bowling Alleys were not complete. The Bassano Kinsmen Club undertook this project of building the three lane five pin bowling alley and in December 1990 official opening of the Bowling Alley took place.

B. Catholic / Anglican Church

The St. Mary's Anglican Church was constructed in October of 1910. The original building was very small 20 ft. by 16 ft. so it would eventually be used as the chancel of the future church. In June of 1912, construction of the new church was commenced, and it was completed in the fall of that year. The larger addition consisted of the nave being 60 by 32 feet, with three rooms 10 by 12 feet at the west end, with a bell tower over the centre room of the vestibule. A service of deconsecration and thanksgiving for the ninety-five years of faithful witness of the St. Mary's Anglican Church was held on February 6, 2005. The building was then sold to the Catholic Church and they moved to their new location in 2006.

C. Old AGT Office

The third telephone exchange was built in 1921 by the provincial government. The new building was immediately north of the town office. It is built of brick and had ample room for the staff. The change from the old quarters above Stiles's Drugstore was made on a Saturday night. For several weeks men worked at changing the lines and everything was ready so that very little delay was caused by the change, in fact the time elapsed was only about an hour. Eventually a new telephone building was constructed on south side of Third Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The new building housed the automatic dialing equipment which was installed and put into service on Saturday midnight, November 20, 1965.

D. First Town Office & Fire Hall (304 Fourth Street)

The building itself was ordered by the three man Village Council and constructed by the Riverside Corporation at a cost of \$1,499.00 in 1910. In the fall of the same year, W. Hood completed the Firehall next door to the north for \$300.00 and a horse drawn fire engine was ordered and arrived in September 1910 at a cost of \$450.00. The Village population reached 525 and in June of 1911 which met the Provincial requirements for Town status with a population of 400. Bassano applied for incorporation as a Town and received the official status in January of 1911. The first Town Council consisted of W. Playfair as Mayor and Councillors E. Purcell, W. Flannagan, R. Struthers, G. Gallagher, F. Hawkins and I. Shoop. They were faced with many responsibilities as the population grew quickly to 1600 by 1914. Demands for health and education services, fire and police protection, town planning and by-laws and sale of lots to

down the street. Bea Becker then moved her Bea's Boutique into the building. Aleta (Pozzobon) Steinbach purchased the flower shop and Pozzy's Possies was soon opened in 1978. Vi Metcalf had a fabric store in 1978 and Joe Molnar bought out Jake's Boot and Saddle and moved the business here, utilizing the upstairs as a residence. Joe renamed the business Joe's Boot and Shoe Repair. The downstairs business area has been empty for several years but the upstairs was rented out as a private residence.

Old Grocery Store (Webster Block 415 Second Ave)

Built about 1913 the Webster Block is a wood frame building with a brick veneer, the bricks coming from the demolished Berkeley Hotel that stood on Railroad Ave. The building originally housed offices upstairs that included: Dr. Keith's first dentist office, medical offices of Dr. DeSilva and Dr. Gordon Dowsley. These offices were later converted to living quarters. James Johnston bought the building and operated a grocery business until selling to Henry Bodmer in 1947. Henry renamed the store the M & M Grocery Store and operated the store until son, Verne took over in 1957. Verne and wife, Betty Ann, built a new store in 1964 across the street and moved the grocery business. It then housed the Macleod Hardware store owned by Jack Sharp. Bob and Agnes Cochrane bought the Macleod Store from Jack, then after a few years sold it. Ed and Marian Rutschke and Isabella Maurer ran an IEM Hardware from 1966-1977. Since then this building has been a Ceramics Studio (1978); Karl's Place, V&P Antiques; and in 2010 it was Chez Elle, a lady's clothing store.

Creations Unlimited (423 Second Ave)

First built as the Flanagan Bros. Hardware in 1909 this building has probably seen more businesses than any other building in Bassano. The Royal Cafe was here for a number of years. In the early 1950s it was the Lucky Dollar Store run by Noel Sharp. It was bought by Henry and Francis Schaffer in 1962 and they moved their Naturmade Products, a manufacturer of Silver Crest Cake Boards that were sold across Canada. Naturmade Products and the building were sold to Muriel Chizik. She expanded the business and eventually moved to her new building across the street to the north. In 1973 Bea Becker opened her first flower shop here, she later moved to the old Drugstore down the street in 1974. Ed Cheng had Ed's TV Sales and Service here in 1982, then in 1983 his sister Amy and husband David Lau opened Amy's Place in conjunction with Ed's TV. In 1988 Ron Rutschke and Wendy Reimer opened their businesses Realty World and Travel Insight respectively. This building was bought by Leon Lehner in 1995 and is now home to Creations Unlimited.

Ken's Men's Wear (425 Second Ave)

This is a consolidation of three buildings across the front and several additions on the back. As early as 1913 E.F. Purell joined the three front buildings for his grocery and confectionary business.

Roland (Ronnie) Brent purchased part of the building after World War II, he operated a successful men's and boy's clothing store. Then in 1953 he purchased the rest of the building that had been operating as a restaurant by Mabel Eckman. Ronnie renovated and added an appliance and sporting goods outlet. In 1973 Ronnie sold to Ken Sawatsky and Dwain Cowan, Ken eventually bought out Dwain and the three buildings again were under one business. The building was sold again and became Laurie's Flowers in 1992, and the east end became Kal's Tax Services. The building has been empty for several years and is slated for demolition in the future.

Old Harness Shop (Louie Conn's Store 429 Second Ave)

Our first records of this building place the Sailor Bros. Harness Makers here on the first tax rolls in 1905. Louie Conn's store was here (1929-44). It was also Walker's, Cole's (1945-52), Goring's (1953-1960), Lucky Dollar Store (Noel Sharp), Jake's Boot and Saddle owned by Jake & Freida Schaffer (from 1953-1975) and Gordon and Edna Park (from 1975-1978) Peake's Western Wear (1978), G & F Variety, Once & Again Consignment and the latest was Massage for Health.

The Empty Bottle (435 Second Ave)

The first building on this lot was the Wheatley's Bowling Alley and Pool Room in 1910, then renamed King's Pool Room. This structure was torn down after a fire damaged the building in 1930. Guy "Shorty" Foster then chose this site to build his new Bassano Pool Room and which had two bowling alleys also. The original building was 30 by 100 feet and cost about \$6000. Shorty sold to Earl and Eila Varty in 1945. The Vartys then ran the business until they sold to Bob and Marge Scott in 1974. Anne Beddows bought the building in 2006, renovated the building, adding a new roof and store front and renamed it the Empty Bottle. Dorothy Bingham and Dawn Huckerby have own the building and business since 2009 .

Old Town Office # 2 (Bassano Service Station 439 Second Ave)

This building was erected on the site of the former Alberta Hotel that had burned down in 1923. A.P "Jimmie" Pierson built the 28 x 45 foot Bassano Service Station, complete with washrooms, gasoline pumps, a show room and garage. The Town of Bassano bought the building and used it as the Town Office until 1974. Since then it has been used as a garage, welding shop, auto