



February is Local History Month in Prince George and Valentine's Day marked 54 years since the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's hospital in the Cache area officially opened.

On Feb. 14, 1914 nurses held a Valentine's ball in the partially-furnished hospital to officially open it and to make up for the Christmas party they couldn't hold due to on-going construction.

According to Prince George historian Ted Williams, the pioneer complex, including a cook house and dining hall as well as the hospital, was built by railway contractors, Foley, Welsh and Stewart, for railway construction workers designated to begin construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway (BC Rail) south to Quesnel, Williams said.

Construction of the PGE line began on schedule in 1913 and the spring of 1914, but the first world war (1914-1918) broke out and the project was delayed.

A top man of those days in charge of locating railway sidings and stations was James C. Anderson, an engineer with GTP Railway.

He arrived here by scow in 1912 from Tete Jaune Cache and set up his railway camp along the Fraser River where Taylor Drive is now located.

Williams father, George, who worked for the GTP Railway, was a member of the crew who helped move Anderson to Prince George.

During the winter of 1912, Anderson did a topographical survey of the area for the GTP from the Fraser River west to what was then known as Fraser Street (Carney Street).

In the spring of 1913, Anderson's camp moved to Miworth and he continued surveying the area from Miworth east to Carney Street.

"Then the GTP officials in Boston took the topography study and developed it into city plan," Williams said.

Anderson, who spent many hours with Williams relating his early experiences in this area, died at age 94 in Vancouver in 1986.

Prince George pioneer and land

surveyor Fred Burden applied the Boston plan to establish lots and streets which first went on sale in the fall of 1913.

In the spring of 1914, large numbers of lots were purchased through a world-wide promotion and that's how the city of Prince George got its start...and that's the truth.

Because February is Heart Month, local B.C. Heart Foundation representative, Carole Chalmers passed along this "nice thought for a good cause."

She said William Brons, a Prince George resident who died recently from a heart attack, was honored in a special way this month in Cranbrook.

It seems his musician nephew, Greg Brons, and the other members of his dance band, donated their time, in honor of William, to play for a heart fund-raising dance.

They played five hours at the Curl-A-Thon event which raised \$12,000 for heart disease research and public education.

"I just think it was a nice thought and good cause," Chalmers said.

Mr. P.G. will temporarily lose his sight later this month.

Watch for him to sport a gigantic white cane and outrageous dark glasses to help promote awareness about those with impaired vision. White Cane Week in Prince George, sponsored by the Canadian Institute for the Blind, will be held Feb. 22 to 27.

Prince George pioneer Tom Payne received a lot of good wishes from around town when he turned 91 years old Monday. He's well known here as a founding member of the Artists Workshop and for his participation in action events like walkathons and the Terry Fox Run.

In the better-late-than-never category, the Cluculz Lake Community Association has announced the winners of its Christmas Raffle.

Joy Gallagher of Jardine Road

won the hoop doll, Lance Jeppesen of Ospika Boulevard won the wall hanging, Caroline Brown won the doll and cradle and Mary-Anne Antoine won the child's nite lite.

The association extends its appreciation to everyone who supported the raffle.

The Prince George Art Gallery has received a \$1,000 donation from the Multicultural Heritage Society to be used to buy frames for the gallery to extend exhibition opportunities to artists who are unable to frame their works.

Society president Mike Kennedy made the donation at an opening reception for an exhibition of watercolor paintings by Greg Molesworth.

Student musicians at Duchess Park secondary can take a bow for getting the school band program back on track after a hiatus of more than a year. During the past three months they've come together well enough they've put together a concert slated for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Featured will be number by the flute ensemble, choir, senior band, Grade 9 band, Grade 8 band and stage band. There is no admission fee.

Area residents who support the charitable efforts of World Vision Canada can take heart from news that an emergency team is providing relief in the wake of an Ethiopian flood that killed eight villagers and left 400 homeless this week.

Gary Roebbelen, a World Vision director based in Ansokia, in the heart of the flooded area, said 10 tonnes of wheat, 200 litres of oil, 500 kilograms of dried skim milk and 500 blankets are enroute to the stricken area.

### Volunteer helpline

Immigrant services is looking for a volunteer to help prepare income tax returns for recent immigrants and refugees. For more information or to volunteer phone 562-2900.

The local B.C. Special Olympics needs a track and field coach to begin working in May. The applicant must have a minimum of a Level 1 technical certificate in track and field from the national coaching certification program. Experience working with mentally handicapped people would be an asset. Practices take place Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information phone Sheehagh at 563-4831.

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