

10. Karen's Cafe

Currently vacant and believed to have been built in the early 40's, this good old building has served many uses in its life - the Co-Op, Sekora's Butchers Shop, Calmar Library, the Activity Centre (Playschool) and a Teen Drop in Centre. The building was totally refurbished in 2004 to become Karen's Café. Closed on March 20, 2008 it is hope that this establishment will once more become a restaurant.

11. SS Office Services

Was the site of the Alberta Poultry Producers, built in 1945 and affectionately referred to as the Egg Station. Sadly, the original building no longer exists. A new building is currently under construction on this site and is expected to be finished in 2008

12. Calmar Bakery

Looking North across the street, stands the Calmar Bakery. Built in 1950 by Bill Sol. Its reputation built over the years by the Danish owner/baker Bjarne Kristensen and continued on by the current owners, the Calmar Bakery is famous for its fruit cake and donuts. If you have time, pop over and try them.

Still looking across the street we see;

13. Calmar Dollar Store

Built in 1934 this building has operated for most of its existence as a general store. Still fondly remembered by many as Calmar Trading Company owned and operated by Sam Pyrch and Max Maduke.

Continuing on east on the South side of the street, we reach

14. The Town Office and preceding vacant lot/ATB

This area of town is believed to be the sight of the original creamery before its relocation and expansion. Also operated on this sight was the Calmar Café. Owner Pon Lee came to Calmar in 1936 and remained up until his passing in 1965. Now the sight of the "new" Town Office and Alberta Treasury Branch - NO PICTURES AVAILABLE

Onward east and over 49th Street we arrive at;

15. Calmar Medical Centre.

This was the site of the first meeting house for the International Bible Students Association which in 1931 adopted the name Jehovah's Witness and was designated a Kingdom Hall. The building was destroyed in the fire of '45.

49th Street Express Cont....

Rebuilt as a gas station and known for many years as the Calmar Confectionery and Car Wash, complete with dining facilities. Spring 2007 brought a total refurbishment to this establishment to turn it into a much needed medical and dental clinic.

Continuing on east on the South side of the street we next view

16. Convenient Video

Before the fire, this was the sight of Hoffmans Hardware where he expanded his business. In 1945 Ray Dixon acquired the Cockshutt Farm agency in Calmar and it became Dixon Bros. selling Farm Machinery and White Rose Oil. Later it became Calmar Farm Industries operated by Norman Felske and is today operated as a video store.

Onward yet again we come to;

17. Lees Family Restaurant

Built in 1947, operated as a Machine Agency and showroom by George Wedman. History on earlier operations at this site still being researched.

Arriving next and near the end of our tour

18. Empty For Now

Rebuilt as a store in 1946, the building then served for many years as Calmar Laundrette. Renovated the building operated as the ever popular Karen's Café, which has moved to the Activity Center.

Lastly we see the last building on the Southside of main street

19. Calmar Co op

Built in 1947 by Tom Tomaszeski, a Service Station was owned and operated by many over the years until destroyed by a fire in the early 2000's. The Co op was built on the site in 2007.

We hope you have enjoyed this tour. Research is still ongoing, but much of the information in this brochure has been taken from Pioneers and Progress Calmar and District, which is a personal record of the families of the area. Much handed down from generation to generation - cross referencing memories to provide as accurate a picture of our history as possible.

If you have any information or photos to assist further with this project, please contact us - we want our tour to be as full and as accurate as it can.

Thank you for joining us today. Have a Safe journey home.

Please contact us at: Town of Calmar, 4901 - 50 Ave, Box 750, Calmar, AB. T0C 0V0 Phone: (780) 985 - 3604 or Fax: (780) 985 - 3039 www.town.calmar.ab.ca

CALMAR HISTORICAL SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

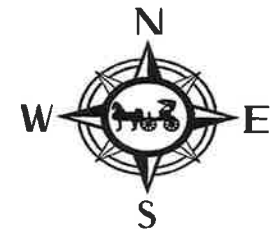
A PROJECT OF CALMAR
CALMAR COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM



In 1895 Carl John Bloomquist led a group of Scandinavian Settlers from Dakota to a new settlement in the West of Canada.

From his new home, he ran the post office which he called Calmar after his home town of Kalmar (with a K) in Sweden.

The story continues



GO WEST YOUNG MAN,
GO WEST

In the fall of 1895, the pioneers arrived in Leduc, bringing only with them the bare necessities that they could carry by hand or in their wagons.

They headed West, clearing the land and making their own trails through the rough bush. Those trails were the only roads in the district for many years but as the flow of other immigrants continued and the discovery of oil in the district boosted the economy, so the community of Calmar grew.

We start our tour today at the North East corner of Calmar, outside the Hotel.

1. The Calmar Hotel

The hotel has had many owners and undergone many changes over the years. It was originally built by Mr. Albert Garbe in 1924 who travelled out west from Ontario. The mural on the west wall shows life in Calmar in the 1930's.

Continuing on West, in 1911 the Post Office moved from the Bloomquist homestead to the farm of O. Engberg and then in 1921 a new building was constructed directly west of the hotel next to the vacant lot that you see today. This building was later relocated onto 51 Avenue



Calmar Post Office Built in 1921 By Postmaster O. Engberg. In background is the Hotel.

Heading West we come to :

2. Bricco Ristorante Italiano

Carl and Michael Thomas left the farm in 1934 to build a store in Calmar. Later in the year they added on a barbers shop (the small side addition), which was operated by Michael. The store has served as many businesses over the years, and is now a popular restaurant.

Continuing on along main street we arrive at

3. Hayduk Lumber & Hardware

Original site of Joe Hoffmans first store. Joe bought the store from the failed farmers co-operative. After the Calmar Fire, Bill Hayduk purchased the Hoffman property and built a new hardware store. It took three years to build as

Hayduks Lumber & Hardware cont.....

materials were hard to come by after the war, especially glass. The Grand opening was in 1949. In 1955, Bill gave up Massey Harris franchise and opened up a building supplies store. The store is still operated by Bill's family today.

4. Theatre Place Apartments

Theatre Place Apartments, as it is now known, is one of the few brick buildings in Calmar.

Build by Fred Hayduk in the early 40's, it originally served as a Theatre with shows every Saturday Night until its conversion to apartments. Dr. Reed operated his dental practice in the upstairs of the building for many years.

Next, we take a turn right onto 49th Street.

Immediately on the right we see

5. Calmar Fire Hall

Calmar is very proud of its Volunteer Fire Department. Following the "Fire of '45", a fire hall was built to house a volunteer fire department and for a while, it also served as the Town Office. As the Town grew, the Town Office was re-housed and the Fire Hall was expanded. Many of it's volunteers are second generation fire fighters.

We continue on North down 49th Street to the end of the block where we reach;

6. Calmar School

The first school in the area was Rose Hill School, built in 1898 about 12 miles North West of Calmar, on a hill with a profusion of wild roses, hence the name. In 1935 the Rose Hill building was moved to Calmar and changed its name to "Calmar School".

The addition of a two room building in 1938 expanded the school to meet the growing needs of the community. In 1948 the old Rose Hill building was moved to the south end of the school where it served as a woodwork shop, eventually, in about 1957/58 it became a storage shed for desks and in 1960 the building was sold for lumber to a local resident.

Further additions to the school continued to meet the communities growing needs. In 2003 the community met with excitement with the announcement that a long anticipated new elementary school was to be built west of the

Calmar School cont....

existing building. The "old" building will then become solely a high school.

Continue west along by the high school, then at the four way, cross back and head south where to your left we arrive at;

7. Calmar United Church 1934 + 1957

Prior to the construction of the United Church, the only place to of worship was the International Bible Students Association, which held its services in a small building on main street after its congregation grew too large. The lot and lumber was donated as were many other items and labour to build the Church. Rev. Tom F. McGregor was its first Minister. The Church during its history has served the Clover Bar School Division and other denominations including the Baptists, Lutherans and Anglicans.

Continue South until you reach the highway. To your left on the corner looking South, is the Ukrainian National Home Community Hall and on the right

8. Calmar Value Drug Mart

Between 1924 and 1940, Fred and Matt Hayduk operated a lumber yard and hardware store on the site. Eventually the Hayduk's sold the business and a shopping centre was developed by Henry Gattinger - the corner plot became the drug store.

Cross over Highway 39 at the crosswalk and then head West past the gas station until you reach Woodland Park.

In the front of the park facing out onto the highway, you will find the Pioneer Plaque. The plaque commemorates the first settlers to the area and was unveiled by Lt. Governor J.W. Grant MacEwan and Mrs. C.H. Stout, wife of the last living member of the settlers who arrived in 1895. Moved from its original location in the park during renovations and "lost" for a while, it now takes pride of place in the park once again, surrounded by antique benches and flowers.

Turning back to the highway, now heading east, continue on along Highway 39, crossing back over 50th Street.

9. Serendipity Salon

Research on the history of this site is still ongoing. Only firm information comes from the old assessment card which shows the original structure registered to Steve Workun as the owner and the type of business as "Store and Warehouse" and dated March 25, 1957.

