

# MEDICINE HAT COWBOY POETRY FOUNDATION

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## Howdy!

Spring is the season of a new beginning for babies facing an unfamiliar world. For ranchers it's calves and the need to brand them and do other procedures. In our family it's been kids of two sorts, baby goats and a baby boy named Samuel. Spring activities include giving dozens or just ten pieces of advice to high school graduates; in my case it's a granddaughter from University. We've been collaborating with Pioneer Village at the Medicine Hat Stampede Grounds to 'give birth to' a Cowboy Camp. We're also wondering how to deal with the emergence of this Artificial Intelligence stuff. As we acknowledge lives and activities past, we also look forward to cowboy gatherings and sing-alongs in the fall.

## New Kids in the Family

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The Tyler and Jessie Schnell family had all sorts of kids this Spring.



Samuel

## Spudnut-Making Party

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Velma Pancoast suggested we make steerhead spudnuts for her son's branding. Sonja & Conrad Sandberg and Jim Koch joined the spudnut making. Velma and Jen cut-out various shapes and Sonja was in charge of making the 'prairie oysters'. The girls did deep frying and the boys did the sugaring. Party food was old-fashioned stew for lunch and still warm spudnuts for dessert. We created old-time fun by doing a project together that would be too much work for one. Thanks to the ambitious volunteers and to Velma for the generous donation to MHCP. (Continued on next page)



## Spudnut (Continued)



Cheers to Spudnuts!



Branding and eating go hand in hand, so do horses and cattle. On the Pancoast Ranch, branding is done the cowboy way. Vern gets his brother Jay to rope the calves on horseback and drag them to the fire for branding, vaccinating and castrating. In store for the crew is a delicious array of branding-party food and drinks.

Let us know if you also want to be part of this steelhead spud nut fundraiser for Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry: [MHCPpresident@gmail.com](mailto:MHCPpresident@gmail.com).

## Why Aren't There 10 In a Dozen?

We count in 10's. Is it because we have ten fingers? But spudnuts and eggs and many other items are counted in 12's. Why? Ten is actually terrible for selling things. If a merchant has 10 apples, he can only divide them evenly into halves or fifths. Twelve, on the other hand, can be divided cleanly by 2, 3, 4 or 6. Twelve is a highly composite number. The word 'dozen' originates from the Old French word 'douzaine' which arrived from the Latin 'duodecim' literally translating to "two and ten".

Many of us are guilty of counting on our fingers. Ancient cultures in the Middle East and Asia weren't bashful about using human anatomy to count. They counted by 12's using their thumb to touch the three distinct joints on each of the other four fingers of the same hand. Three joints across four fingers equals exactly 12. This allowed a person to easily count to twelve on one hand while using the other hand to keep track of higher multiples (There are 60 minutes in an hour -five twelves)

For some of us that still think in inches and feet (not centimetres), it's good to know there was good reason for Base-12. It was standardized long before the modern metric systems attempted change us to think in 10's. Yes, ten is excellent for abstract mathematics, but twelve simply works better for buyers and sellers.

## Singalong With a Western Touch

Pictured is the Sing-Along group on the third Thursday in May at Victory Lutheran. From the "Be Happy" booklets, they got to choose what they wanted to sing. One was chosen because she did it as a child at a Talent Show. Some of the old songs were ones they haven't heard in a long time. One lady wanted the chorus "The More We Get Together", which is what the group decided to do again next year. There was a poetry break at 'half time' and the get-together concluded with Wilf Carter's "Little Shirt my Mother Made for Me", complete with a yodel, of sorts. See you in September.



## Dressed Western

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A member of ours spotted this guy  
While browsing around on Facebook,  
The cutest puppy she's ever seen  
And his clothing has the cowboy look.

She's always wanted to have a cowboy  
To call her very own,  
Well, maybe hubby wouldn't get jealous  
If she brought this cowboy home.



It was Faye Fedrau that found him. Thanks!!  
You're welcome to share what you found, too -your news.  
Our e-mail address is: MHCPpresident@gmail.com

## Empty Saddles

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We celebrated the life of **Emily Schmaltz**. She leaves a long history of pioneering. She lived to 103 and was the last sibling in a family of 14. Her values of hard work, adaptability and resiliency were passed on to her 10 children and her many grandchildren and great grands. The pioneer spirit would have come from her parents who came to Canada in a covered wagon, lived in it until they built a sod house, then lived the little mud house for 8 years. Emily's farm life was much like parents': milking cows, growing a big garden and making meals from scratch, for a large family. Seeing her on the dance floor after her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is a testament to her love of music and her determination to stay active. She shared her spudnut recipe on our website; it's much like the one we use for our steerhead spudnuts. Bev Biggeman's interviews with her are written on our website (link below).

Link: [Emily Schmaltz Bio](#)

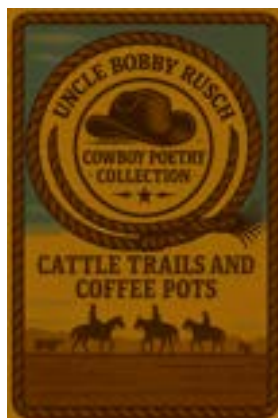
## Empty Saddles Continued

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A member of MHCP, Uncle Bobby Rusch aka **Bob Ruschiensky**, has left “last tracks in the dust”. His growing up years in small-town Minton gave him many opportunities to experience farm and ranch life in the area. At his home in Regina and much later in life he fell in love with researching its history, started writing cowboy poetry (in 2024), then discovered how AI could generate rhymes and the drawings to go with it. He commented how easy it is to feed ideas in and AI spits out a 4 or 5 stanza rhyme and a pencil-like drawing. That interest turned into a passion and the publishing of well over 20 booklets, with 15 or 20 poems and pictures in each booklet,

His legacy would be in his ability to 'harness this new technology at the age of 75'. The AI creations would not be in what he called 'cowboy poetry', but he did explore many western topics in his books. For instance, in “Horses of the West” it brings to mind how many roles they had. There were cow ponies, plow, pack, preacher, sheriff, rodeo horses, etc. Teams pulled stagecoaches, freight wagons, chuckwagons, buggies, etc. There was the tribal war horse and the cavalry horse. Pony expresses weren't forgotten either. Each page has a poem about one of these and for each there is a page with a 'drawing'.

Bob sometimes did a book in a week, then got it published and has it on an online bookstore (another learning curve, he said). He was very generous with MHCP in sharing many of his books: “Memories From the Last Round Up”, “Pioneer Families of the Plains”, “Campfires/Bunkhouse Stories” and “Native Pow Wow Remembered”. There is a poem about the Medicine Hat Stampede from his book, “Rodeo Trails,” in which he acknowledged each place in Canada that has a rodeo. An AI generated poem is in our December 2025 issue of “Keeping You in the Loop”.



## Example of an AI Generated Poem

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We remember Uncle Bob Rushky who sent us this poem. and we applaud his being able to harness this technology. We realize there probably are potential benefits in some areas of life. But it's scary when AI tries to replicate an individual's creative process. Cowboy Poetry isn't just about lines that have rhythm and rhyme. Cowboy Poetry is about an individual's story, something he/she has experienced or is passionate about. It's 'sharing from the heart' that defines the Cowboy Poetry genre.

### **Where the Words Still Buck and Ride**

Out Medicine Hat way where Chinook winds blow,  
The river talks slow to the land,  
Place where the dust and the old stories go,  
And a cowboy still wants to stand.

Jen Zollner don't holler, she listens first,  
Knows when to nod, when to grin,  
Has a knack for hearin' best from worst,  
Pullin' gold from the gravel within.

MHCP Foundation holds tight to the reins,  
Keeps the old talk honest and plain,  
No fancy words, just blisters and rain,  
A livin' that earns every line.

As hats come off and the room settles down,  
Verses hit home like a brand,  
West ain't lost, it's just passin' around  
Through good hands & folks who understand.

## Upcoming Events

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### **Cowboy Camp**

Storytelling, Western Music and Cowboy Poetry, hosted by MHCP  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)  
Pioneer Village, Stampede Grounds, during their summer  
Exhibition & Stampede  
FREE music and poetry around the 'campfire'  
**Wanna entertain too? Call Jen to register: 403-529-6384**

We're busily creating something brand new, a spot where you can learn about the historic cattle drives. When you visit the One-Room School, the Blacksmith Shop or Austin's Store, come on over to visit us. We're by the windmill. Times for the entertainment will be announced soon.

### **Trail's End Gathering** (hosted by the Alberta Cowboy Poetry Assoc)

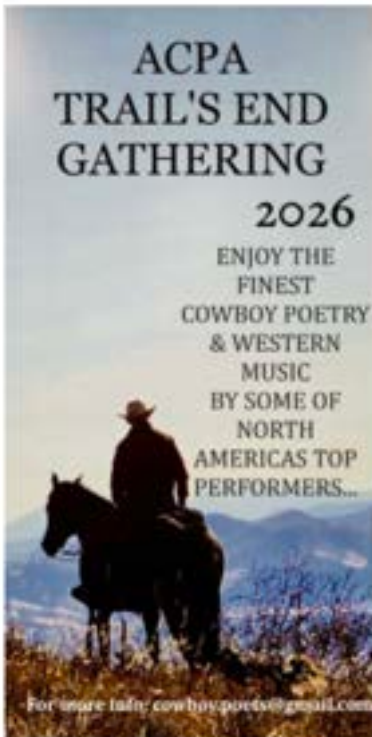
September 4 & 5 (Friday and Saturday)  
High River, Alberta  
Heritage Inn and Convention Centre  
**Contact Lewis: 403-652-7818**

### **Cowboy Gathering** (See "They Put Caroline on the Map, March/April Newsletter)

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)  
Caroline, Alberta  
Kurt Browning Complex  
**Contact Darl: 403-722-3232**

### **Medicine Hat's Western Music and Cowboy Poetry Round-Up**

October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> with Cowboy Church on Sunday.  
-on Friday the afternoon show, then Open Mike in the evening, all at the Moose  
-why not be part of the Open Mike.  
-on Saturday take-in the all-day show at Victory Church  
-afternoon performers, at least a dozen of them  
-evening headliner is Ben Crane  
**-contact Jen: 403-529-6384**



ALBERTA COWBOY POETRY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

September 04 - 05, 2026

Friday, Sept. 4th, 2026

Day show 12 noon - 5:00 pm

Night show 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, Sept. 5th, 2026

Day show 12 noon - 5:00 pm

Night show 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm



1104 - 11 Avenue SE  
High River, AB  
403 - 652- 3834



All day pass - \$45

Afternoon Only - \$20

Night show only - \$30

Weekend pass - \$80

Tickets available  
for purchase  
at the door with cash

Ticket purchase EFT  
[acpaeventtickets@gmail.com](mailto:acpaeventtickets@gmail.com)

Please see  
ticket order form  
on back

SPONSORS

Museum of the Highwood  
406 1st Street SW,  
High River, AB

Cowboy Country  
1607 20 Ave SE  
Nanton, AB

Top Hand  
5430 1st St  
Clareholm, AB

Walkers Country's  
Western Wear  
504 Centre st, SE  
High River, AB



**CAROLINE COWBOY MUSIC  
& POETRY GATHERING**  
**September 11-13, 2026**  
Kurt Browning Complex - 5103 - 48 Ave.  
Caroline, Alberta

**Featuring**  
Bj Smith, Ben Crane, Charlie Ewing, Doris Daley, Doc Mehl, Edward Pirren,  
Ed & Gail Peekeekoot, Greg Yowk, Jim Beaufort, Jim Hamilton,  
Jim McLennan, Larry Miller, Lori Nelson, Margaret Wilhelm, Mel Brown,  
Mike Dygert, Phyllis Rathwell, Tennessee Rindal, Tom Cole, Tim Hus, and a  
Tribute to Trail Blazers Robbie Robertson & Perry Jacobson

**WEEKEND PASS  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
Begins @ 10:00am  
**\$100 per person**

**FRIDAY OR SATURDAY  
ONLY**  
**\$60 per person**

Everyone Welcome to Cowboy Church 11am Sunday

Limited suppers \$25 per person, per day

Enter is \$30 per person. Per day, must be accompanied by an adult

**Cash Only Event - Silent Auction**  
Free Dry Camping at South End of Complex  
Tickets available at the Caroline Hotel in Caroline or Home Hardware and  
Dijetti Music in Rocky Mountain House or  
transfer to [anothercarolinegathering@gmail.com](mailto:anothercarolinegathering@gmail.com)  
Phone 403-722-3232 or text 403-660-7500  
NO REFUNDS

## Horse Wisdom to Grads

These are the words of advice stitched on aida cloth on the patchwork blanket gift to my granddaughter: A similar one got the highest bid from Harold Schnee at a MHCP Silent Auction.

- Spur Yourself to Greatness
- Take Life's Hurdles in Stride
- Insist on a Hackamore Instead of a Bit
- Live Like Someone Left the Gate Open
- Only Let Someone Catch You if You Want to be Caught

- When You're Down, Get Back Up and Shake it Off
- Too Much Debt and Another Holds the Reins
- Keep the Burrs from Under Your Saddle
- Ride for a Cause, not Applause
- Don't Ever Sell Your Saddle



- Western Music - Cowboy Poetry - Rural Lifestyle -

# Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation

- Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual -

## WESTERN MUSIC & COWBOY POETRY ROUND-UP

**MUSIC, POETRY & MORE!**

**Save The Date!**

**OCTOBER 16-18, 2026**

Special Guest:  
Singer/Songwriter  
Humorist &  
Cartoonist  
**Ben Crane!**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**  
Afternoon Performances  
Evening Open Mic  
@ Moose Lodge

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**  
Afternoon Performances  
Headliner: *Ben Crane*  
@ Victory Church

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**  
Cowboy Church Service



**f** [MHCowboyLife.com](http://MHCowboyLife.com)  
Visit us on [Facebook](#)

**Contact Us:**  
403-529-6384  
[MHCPPresident@gmail.com](mailto:MHCPPresident@gmail.com)

Preserving and celebrating cowboy life in the Medicine Hat area

### Barrel Racing Gal

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3 barrels, 2 hearts, one passion

- sunshine mixed with a little hurricane
- forget the glass slippers, this princess wears boots
- sweeter than stolen honey
- a little mud never hurt her
- can skin her own buffalo

## Ending Poem:

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It's the time of year when barrel racing gals are having to give up their jeans and boots for a gown and high heels. Cathy is her real name and this was how she dealt with the dilemma; it's her story, that I put to rhyme.

### Grad Day is Looming

My name it is Cathy, I'll admit I'm in love  
With my barrel racing horse and with Doug of course,  
But grad day is looming, and I'm not much for grooming,  
And my need for a gown is an awful force.

My mom is a seamstress, the gown turns out gorgeous,  
But I can't see me wearing a girly-girl dress,  
The day arrives and I'm getting ready,  
These opposing feelings are hard to express.

I look at myself in the full length mirror,  
I can't disappoint my parents so loyal,  
They made sure I got that cracker jack horse,  
They treat me like I was a princess royal.

I can hear the excitement going on downstairs,  
"Are you ready yet? It's time to go!"  
The doorbells rings, Doug has arrived,  
I've a prank to surprise those waiting below.

I saw Doug gasp, "You're so beautiful!"  
As I carefully came down the stairs,  
Midway I stopped and broadly smiled,  
My blackened front teeth brought horrified stares.

Doug's face turned white, "Call the dentist quick,  
"Better sit down on one of these chairs,"  
Mama's feathers were ruffled, said, "Catherine Jo,  
"Tell Doug what you did and get back up those stairs."

Race the rain, ride the wind and chase the sunset,

Happy Trails,  
Jen