

History of Humboldt

1876

-The western Canadian telegraph line with a repair station at Humboldt was completed, linking Selkirk, Manitoba to Leduc, Alberta.

1878

-In February, George and Catherine Weldon were hired by the Canadian Pacific Telegraph Line to operate the Humboldt station. George served as lineman while Catherine became the first female telegraph operator west of Winnipeg. With them was their infant daughter Ann Jane ("Birdie") and Catherine's sister Margaret.

- First telegraph message from the Humboldt station was sent on August 25th.

1881

-The Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne, stopped at the Humboldt Station and was impressed with the Weldons' hospitality.

1882

-The Weldons' young daughter Birdie passed away in January. Two linemen at the station, insistent that the girl have a proper Christian burial, created a sleigh for the body which they pulled 150 miles to Prince Albert.

-The Weldons left Humboldt for Grenfell where George became the Canadian Pacific Railway station agent.

1885

-A small North West Mounted Police detachment was stationed in the Humboldt area to deliver mail and protect the telegraph line.

-During the North West (Riel) Resistance, federal troops arrived at the Humboldt telegraph station site under Colonel George T. Denison, awaiting orders from General Middleton. As Humboldt was the end of the telegraph line, it played a very important part in the communication of the soldiers during the Resistance. General Middleton sent messages to Humboldt via soldiers on horseback which Denison transmitted to Ottawa. After the battle, the troops left Humboldt for Fort Qu'Appelle several weeks later.

1887

-The North West Mounted Police detachment closed and did not reopen until 1905 at the new Humboldt village site.

1900

-Colonization Hall was built on Main Street, south of the railway tracks. Immigrants could stay at the hall until they acquired homestead land.

1902

-Father Bruno Doerfler, O.S.B. chooses the Humboldt area for the establishment of a colony which would include a monastery of the Benedictine order.

1903

-St. Peter's Colony is established and named after Abbot Peter Engel of Minnesota.

-Godfried Schaeffer moved his business "The Pioneer Store" into Humboldt from Dixon.

1904

- One of the first buildings in Humboldt was a log restaurant built by Mathias Rath. The main dish was rabbit.
- A. Adamson was the Liberal Member of Parliament for the Humboldt, North West Territories area.

1905

- The first CNR passenger train arrived in Humboldt.
- Humboldt became a village with at least 15 dwelling houses located within the area.
- Humboldt boasted two hotels- the Humboldt Hotel and the Windsor Hotel.
- The first issue of *The Humboldt Journal* was published on October 19.
- Dr. Neely was Humboldt's first member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, winning by acclamation.

1906

- The first Catholic school opened.
- Daily train service begins.
- Central Creamery Company opened on Seventh Street.
- First meeting of the Humboldt Board of Trade is held on February 7th.

1907

- The community of over 400 people achieved town status on April 1st.
- First municipal election was held with O. Andreasen elected Mayor.
- New fire equipment was purchased for the town of Humboldt at a cost of \$7,000.

1908

- The new two-room public school opened at a cost of \$5,000.

1909

- The Humboldt Agricultural Society, the Children's Aid Society and the Curling Club were formed.
- The town's first curling and skating rink was constructed at the corner of Main Street and Ninth Avenue.

1910

- Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke to a crowd of 3,000 people at the arena.
- Humboldt's first telephone system was completed -66 phones were installed: 36 in businesses and 30 in residences. Long distance connections went as far as Warman, Prince Albert and Winnipeg.
- Brusers General Store opened.

1911

- At an approximate cost of \$20,000, the construction of the first St. Augustine Church began.
- The town of Humboldt decided to build cement walks.

1912

- Humboldt Public School was completed at a cost of \$65,000.
- Construction of the original St. Elizabeth's Hospital was completed in the fall.
- The Arlington Hotel was built on the southeast corner of Ninth Street and Seventh Avenue.

1913

- The McNab and Chub Flour Mill opened.
- “City Hall” was constructed on the southeast corner of Main Street and Seventh Avenue.
- Humboldt’s first sitting of the Supreme Court took place with Chief Justice Haultain presiding.
- The Dominion Government building, which housed the post office and customs office, opened.
- Humboldt’s Power House was constructed at a cost of \$13,000.
- Humboldt was selected as a Land Titles Registration District and a Judicial District.

1914

- Construction of the Humboldt Water Tower began.
- A recruiting station was set up to receive volunteers for overseas infantry.
- The CNR water line from Burton Lake to Humboldt was completed.

1915

- Charlie Chaplin performed at Humboldt’s Lux Theatre.
- Humboldt’s rail car of flour was on its way to Belgian sufferers of war.

1916

- The construction of the Humboldt Court House and Land Titles Office was completed.
- Humboldt had all night electric light service.
- A branch of the Salvation Army opened in Humboldt.
- Humboldt Rural Telephone Company was formed with a line to connect Humboldt and Waldsea Lake.

1917

- The CNR agreed to connect with the town’s electric light service with a guaranteed minimum consumption of \$25 a month.
- Humboldt became a center for the provincial police force.
- Westminster United Church building was completed.

1918

- The Dominion Land Office in Humboldt was closed.
- As Humboldt had never had a total crop failure, it became known as “The Sure Crop District”.

1919

- Residents gathered at the train station for a homecoming for local troops after World War I.
- Electrical service was 24 hours a day.
- St. Elizabeth’s hospital expanded to 35 beds.

1921

- Humboldt’s War Memorial, a cenotaph, was dedicated on the Court House grounds.
- The Humboldt Golf Club was established with its first nine-hole course at Waldsea Lake.

1922

- Arthur Driver constructed the first radiophone in Humboldt, which allowed him to receive programs from Regina.

1923

- The Humboldt Hotel on Railway Avenue was destroyed by fire.
- The Government Telegraph Line which ran from Fort Qu'Appelle to Edmonton through Humboldt was discontinued.
- Construction of the CNR Coal Dock began.
- The Humboldt Sunocos won the Northern Saskatchewan Hockey Championship.

1924

- The curling rink was torn down to accommodate a new three-sheet facility, attached to the skating rink.
- The town's water supply changed from Stoney Lake to Burton Lake through an agreement with CNR.

1925

- Liquor store opens in Humboldt.
- The Humboldt Journal* celebrated its 20th birthday.

1926

- The first graduation exercises were held for the eight students of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing.

1927

- A snowmobile designed by Herman Pitzel and Andy Ollerich was the first of its kind in Humboldt.

1928

- Humboldt extended its power line to accommodate four farms located west of town.
- The main road running south of Humboldt was designated a provincial highway (Highway #20).
- Humboldt celebrated its 21st anniversary as a town and installed a cornerstone box in City Hall on April 2nd.

1929

- CPR started the rail line in Humboldt that would connect Lanigan and Prince Albert.
- After a vote in September, Humboldt sold its municipal electrical utility to the Power Commission, becoming the first customers of SaskPower.
- The North West Business College opened a branch in Humboldt.

1930

- CNR opened a freight express office.
- Humboldt received a new power transmission line and sub-station because of a fire.
- Humboldt's hockey team, the "Humboldt Sunocos," changed their name to the "Humboldt Red Indians."

1931

- Power finally became available to everyone in the area and there was a two-day exhibition of electrical appliances at City Hall.
- The Salvation Army opened a soup kitchen in Humboldt.
- The town reverted from Burton Lake to Stoney Lake for its water supply.
- As a relief measure because of the Dirty Thirties, Main Street was reconditioned.

1932

- The Customs Office located in the Post Office building was closed.
- Humboldt held an “Old Man Depression Parade” and cremated “Old Man Depression”.
- A Public Library opened in the Court House building.
- The skating arena located at Main Street and Ninth Avenue was damaged by fire.
- First Platzer Cup hockey tournament was held.

1935

- John Agopsowicz opened a bowling alley in the basement of Columbus Hall.
- Renovations were completed at the Windsor Hotel for the opening of a beer parlour.

1936

- A new Separate School was built at a cost of \$30,000.
- Construction began on Highway #20 south of Humboldt.

1937

- The average seeded acre was 2.6 bushels.
- The Humboldt Business College opened in the dining room of the Arlington Hotel.
- Humboldt celebrated the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth with a parade and dedication service held at the Canadian Legion.

1938

- 75 barrels of crude oil caught fire and destroyed the Home Oil and Refining Company Plant located east of Humboldt on Highway #5. The refinery was rebuilt.
- The first annual Humboldt Music Festival was held in May with 45 entries.

1939

- Streets in the business section were oiled to help control dust problems.
- Youth (Wartime) Training Program was established.

1940

- The Princess Café and banquet hall opened.

1941

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police took over policing in the town.
- The Humboldt Recruiting Office was re-opened.

1942

- Humboldt held its first practise blackout.
- A new creamery opened on Seventh Street.

1943

- Humboldt’s first Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic was held.

1944

- The Town purchased the arena rink and property.

1945

- A new town bylaw was passed, renaming all of the streets and avenues in Humboldt.

1946

- The Humboldt Indians joined the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League.
- Humboldt purchased a new fire truck.
- Housing units from the Royal Canadian Air Force training school at Dafoe were moved into Humboldt for use as veteran's living quarters.

1947

- The golf course was moved from Waldsea Lake to the present day back-nine course in Humboldt.
- Humboldt's Air Ambulance, operated by Grest's Flying Service, flew its first patient out of Humboldt.

1948

- Humboldt Lions Club opened a paddling pool in Civic park.
- A new building was constructed to house the Lux Theatre.

1949

- The Humboldt Collegiate rink of Jack Thompson, Fred Langen, Balfour Laskin and Garry Fletcher won the Dominion (National) High School Curling Championship.
- The Humboldt Bowling Alley and Lunch opened.

1950

- The medical clinic opened at the corner of Ninth Street and Seventh Avenue.
- Humboldt's Memorial Building was officially opened.

1951

- An artificial ice plant was installed in the arena.
- Blacktopping of Main Street began in Humboldt.
- First female jurors in Humboldt were Eva Pitzel, Agnes Chamney and Agnes Bauer.

1952

- A fire at Grest Motors resulted in a \$4,000 loss.

1953

- Parking meters went into effect on the streets of Humboldt.
- The first CNR diesel arrived in Humboldt.
- Trapp family singers perform at the Lux Theatre, filling it with the sound of music.

1954

- The cornerstone was laid at the Ukrainian Catholic All Saints Church.
- A commemorative marker was placed at the site of the second Humboldt telegraph station.

1955

- The new 75-bed St. Elizabeth's Hospital was officially opened.
- A Red River Cart built by Harry Ford was placed west of town for Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee celebrations.
- A request to declare the area of Humboldt a state of disaster was made due to flood conditions.

1956

- 41 new Mercury Vapor lights were turned on, increasing pedestrian and motorist safety at crossings.
- Fire destroyed the McNab Flour Mill.

1957

- Flasher traffic lights were installed on the highway in front of the Separate and Public schools.
- Humboldt Public Library opened in the Town Hall building.

1959

- St. Dominic School officially opened.
- Three Humboldt girls were pictured on the cover of *Macleans* magazine.
- Loyal Motors, a dealership and service station for Mercury, Meteor and Frontenac cars opened.
- “The Corral” drive-thru opened on the west edge of town on Highway #5.

1960

- Humboldt was chosen as one of Saskatchewan’s Health Region centers.
- The last steam engine went through Humboldt.

1961

- Waldsea Lake was established as Saskatchewan’s sixth regional park.
- Humboldt changed its telephone numbers from a five-digit to a seven-digit number system to prepare Humboldt for Operator Distance Dialing when it would join the Toll Dialing Network in 1962.

1962

- CPR crossing lights were installed at the east end of town on Highway #5.
- A new traffic bylaw established the truck route.

1963

- Night depository service was opened at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.
- CNR passenger trains #9 and #10 made their last run through Humboldt.
- St. Mary’s Villa opened.
- The shareholders of the Humboldt Arena sold the artificial ice plant to the Town of Humboldt for \$5,000.

1964

- The Town of Humboldt sold City Hall and its property to the Shelley Brothers.
- Parallel parking replaced angle parking on Main Street.
- The fairgrounds were moved from the east of town to the present location behind the Uniplex.
- The RCMP barracks were relocated from the second floor of the old post office building to Eleventh Avenue.

1965

- The present Town Hall (now City Hall) opened. The old City Hall building was demolished.
- Main Street was paved.
- On New Year’s Eve, fire destroyed the Saskatchewan Cooperative Creamery on Seventh Street.
- Brusers Limited closed its doors.
- Humboldt celebrated Saskatchewan’s Diamond Jubilee.
- Prime Minister Lester Pearson officially opened the Humboldt Collegiate.

1966

-The commercial office of the Saskatchewan Government Telephones in the telephone exchange at Humboldt was closed.

1967

-The old CNR Roundhouse was torn down.

-Humboldt's Centennial Cairn was unveiled on the grounds in front of Town Hall.

-A bylaw was passed permitting certain sports activities to be held between 1:30 and 6:30 pm on Sundays.

1968

-The Town of Humboldt purchased a garbage disposal truck.

-An explosion at Marshall Wells Hardware from an undetermined source blew out the front window and the rear wall of the building.

-The new Burton Lake pumphouse was completed to help increase pumping capacity and raise the water level.

1969

-The Humboldt Municipal Airport was officially opened.

-The St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing closed.

-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau visited Humboldt.

1970

-Construction started on Mobile Village, located at Tenth Street and First Avenue.

-The Humboldt Broncos hockey team joined the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League.

1971

-A tourist booth, located along Highway #5, opened.

-Humboldt hosted an all-female rodeo.

-Sunset Manor apartments for senior citizens opened on Third Street.

1972

-The Humboldt Broncos defeated the Melville Millionaires to capture the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League title.

-Traffic signal lights were installed at the intersection of Main Street and Sixth Avenue.

1973

-Traffic lights were installed at the intersection of Highways #5 and #20.

-A new aeration system at the lagoon went into operation.

-Chapman Place apartments opened on Sixth Avenue.

1974

-The new recreation park was named after Glenn Hall, a former Humboldt resident and NHL Hall of Famer.

1975

Humboldt's outdoor swimming pool opened, located beside Humboldt Collegiate along Seventh Street.

-The new federal building for the post office, Department of Agriculture and Department of Veterans Affairs was completed.

-The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) was officially opened.

1976

-The name of the Humboldt Arena was changed to "The Leo Parker Memorial Arena."

-Fire destroyed part of St. Augustine School.

-Judy Kunaman became Humboldt's first female town councillor.

1977

-A spectacular fire at the Gulf Oil Canada Ltd. Bulk Agency at Thirteenth Street and Fifth Avenue caused \$130,000 in damage.

-The new water treatment plant, on the corner of Main Street and Twelfth Avenue, went into operation.

-The first pulmonary survey conducted in Humboldt was the first of its kind in the world.

-The town agreed to purchase the old post office, which was declared a national historic site.

1978

-Passenger service by CNR was restored through Humboldt.

-The homesteaders' monument on the Town Hall grounds was unveiled.

-Cargill opened its 132,000-bushel capacity elevator located along Fourth Avenue.

1979

-A fire destroyed the Humboldt Auction Mart, south of Humboldt on Highway #20.

-A new paddling pool and learners' pool were added to the existing swimming pool on Seventh Street.

-Construction started on the first phase of the Humboldt Community Centre (Humboldt Uniplex).

-Using bulrushes and cattails, Humboldt's new sewage lagoon system was the first in Canada.

1980

-The Arlington Hotel was demolished to make way for a new hotel and mall complex.

-The Via Rail rail-liner made its last run through Humboldt.

1981

-Humboldt took over the operation of the Historical Park from the provincial government.

1982

-The Humboldt and District Museum and Gallery opened in the old Post Office building.

-The second phase of the Uniplex construction was completed.

-Humboldt celebrated its 75th anniversary as a town.

1983

-A new senior citizen housing unit called the Harry Ford Center was constructed.

-The Uniplex had its grand opening on March 25th - 27th.

-Fire destroyed the Legion Hall while it was undergoing renovations.

-Geschaft Center opened.

1984

- Parking meters were taken out.
- The Anglican Church had the first female clergy person in Humboldt.

1985

- The Legion Hall officially opened on Main Street.
- Humboldt's new logo was "The Mustard Capital of the World".

1986

- Univision opened in the industrial park area.
- Nutter's Bulk Foods on Sixth Avenue had its grand opening.
- The Humboldt and District German Heritage Society was formed.

1987

- The Humboldt Mall was opened on Highway #5 East.
- Humboldt hosts the Junior Centennial Cup and the Western Premier's meeting.

1988

- La Cantina Restaurant on Main Street burned down.

1989

- The Westminster United Church burned down.
- The new Humboldt Public Library opened on Main Street.
- The new St. Augustine Church was built beside the old St. Augustine Church.
- Fire destroyed Ross Jewelers, FJ Jewelers and Video Quest on Main Street.
- A new wing was added on to the Humboldt Public School.
- The Willkommen Centre, a Humboldt tourism and German heritage centre, opened on Main Street.

1990

- Premier Grant Devine opened Kinsmen Court on Seventh Street.
- The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator was under construction 5 km east of Humboldt on the CN rail line.
- The Chamney Platz mini-mall was built on Main Street, consisting of several stores and a coffee shop.
- Sommerfest, the annual summer celebration of German-Canadian culture, was held for the first time.
- Humboldt Rural Service Center opened.

1991

- The auction mart, located south of Humboldt on Highway #20, closed.
- Glenn Hall was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.
- Fire destroyed Cash's Motors, located south of the tracks on Main Street.

1992

- The Humboldt Good Neighbour Store opened on Main Street.
- The 7-11 convenience store opened at the junction of Highways #5 and #20.

1993

- Discovery Ford officially opened on Main Street.
- Touchwood Interiors and Bloski's Sharpening Service on Seventh Avenue were gutted by fire.
- A new Tasko building was built next to the Co-op on Seventh Street.
- The old "5 Cents to \$1.00 Store" on Main Street was closed and replaced by True Value Hardware.

1994

- The recycling centre at Futuristic Industries officially opened.
- The UGG elevator opened at Dixon.
- Humboldt's outdoor swimming pool was demolished.
- Gerhard Lipp painted the first mural in Humboldt, on the north wall of the Credit Union building.
- A&W opened on Highway #5.
- The first Polkafest was held.
- A bust of Alexander von Humboldt was placed in front of the museum.

1995

- The Town of Humboldt adopted its new mascots: Hansel Bear and Gretel Bear.
- The Public Library was renamed the Reid-Thompson Library in honour of former librarians Kathleen Reid and Madeline Thompson.
- Carlton Trail Regional Economic Development Authority Office opened.
- Western Heritage Services conducted an archaeological investigation at old Humboldt Telegraph Station site.

1996

- Humboldt's new water source was the South Saskatchewan River.
- A new garbage collection and recycling company, REACT, started in Humboldt.
- Oktoberfest, Humboldt's annual German fall festival, was held for the first time.

1997

- Humboldt was named Saskatchewan's largest town with a population of 5,074.
- The Uniplex added an indoor aquatic centre.
- Humboldt begins using its new water supply from the South Saskatchewan River.

1998

- The Leo Parker arena was demolished.
- The old Auction Mart property was purchased by the Humboldt and Area Vintage and Antique Club.
- A new visitor information office replaced the old booth on Highway #5.

1999

- The Sisters of St. Elizabeth transfer ownership of the hospital to the Sask. Catholic Health Organization.
- The Ursuline Sisters left their convent in Bruno.
- The Humboldt chapter of the Sunshine Rebekah Lodge disbanded.

2000

- Humboldt became the 13th city in Saskatchewan.
- The Humboldt Golf Club opened a new front nine in July, making it an eighteen-hole course.
- The Uniplex Arena was renamed the Elgar Petersen Arena.

2001

- Doepker Industries purchased the old Univision building in the industrial park area.
- The Humboldt rink of Doug Harcourt, Kevin Kalthoff, Greg Harcourt and Brian Wempe won the Provincial Curling Tankard and represented Saskatchewan at the Labatt Brier.
- A new water slide was unveiled at the Aquatic Centre.
- The site for a new hospital was selected on Highway #20, north of the city.
- The Humboldt Lions Club officially disbanded.
- Humboldt celebrated city status with a celebration on April 1.

2002

- Humboldt acquired access to the emergency telephone number 9-1-1.
- In February, Humboldt and the surrounding area hosted the Saskatchewan Winter Games.
- The Humboldt Flour Mills were sold by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool to an American company.
- The Land Titles Office, now computerized, relocated to the Geschaft Centre.
- McDonalds opened at the junction of Highways #5 and #20.

2003

- The Humboldt Broncos won the national junior hockey championship, the Royal Bank Cup.
- Work began to restore the old water tower.
- The Harcourt rink once again captured the Provincial Tankard title.
- The National Grand Slam of Curling was held in Humboldt.
- A new 18-hole miniature golf course opened beside the new tourist information booth on Highway #5.

2004

- A city bylaw was passed which banned smoking in all public places.
- The old St. Augustine Church was demolished in June.
- Humboldt hosted the Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association 55+ Summer Games.
- A crop circle was discovered in a field just north of Humboldt.
- The M&M Meat Shops Masters of Curling event was held at the Elgar Peterson Arena.

2005

- Humboldt celebrated its 100th anniversary since becoming a village in 1905 with a huge party on June 30th.
- The Humboldt Museum launched its centennial book *100 Interesting Stories About Humboldt*.
- Saskatchewan Centennial celebrations were held on September 4th, with Humboldt joining in the province-wide fireworks display.