

FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

PARK NOTES

The Hilton Barn at Shannon Terrace

A Farming Tradition

In 1882, Joseph Shannon from Weston, Ontario, moved into the south-west corner of what is now known as Shannon Terrace. He lived on this property until 1911, when he and his wife moved south to California. From that point on, the Shannon property was rented out for many decades to several families.



Raising a Barn

In 1941, brothers George and Bill Hilton, and their wives Edna and Hazel, rented the Shannon property. In the late fall of 1942, their modest barn burned down, leaving the Hiltons with a serious problem; dozens of dairy cattle, and not enough buildings for them to survive another Alberta winter. Under the Hiltons' direction, a new 'hip-roof' barn was built. Local residents recall that the new barn was complete before New Year's Eve in 1943, and was large enough to house at least 60 head of cattle. They operated a dairy here until 1948.



A New Beginning

With the departure of the Hiltons in 1948, the Brand family rented the property and used the barn as both a stable and dairy until the Shannon family sold the property in 1952. The new owners built an estate home (now the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre) and used the barn for raising quality thoroughbred horses.



The Hilton barn stood until 2003, when in the interest of public safety it was demolished.

For the better part of 100 years, the barn area was a significant fixture to the survival of livestock, and an enduring example of the ranching spirit of southern Alberta.

Thanks to a generous anonymous donation, this site has been reclaimed, trails upgraded, and new signage posted.

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Alberta

May 2006

ISBN: 0-7785-4878-3