

A Walk to Remember...

Block 2, Lot 13, 14 & 15

Prairie Winds Advertising & Sales



Sickness and death were among the worst fears and greatest tragedies of early settlers with access to doctors being a 3 to 4-day wagon trip away. As a result, neighbor ladies often took on the role of mid-wife to expectant mothers. In the early 1890s Dr. R J Campbell opened an office near the corner of Railway and Main Street. Located just east of the Gordon law office, it included Carnduff's first drug store as well.

In 1898 when Dr. Campbell moved to Deloraine, he sold the practice to Dr. W T Lockhart. As the practices of the doctor and the Gordon law office thrived, they decided to build a new professional building on Main

Street (Broadway). The Gordon & Lockhart Block was constructed here around the turn of the century.

The northern lot had been open since the town's settlement while a house sat next to it. In 1898, it was the residence of Presbyterian minister Rev. John Cairns. Following the sudden passing of Reverend Cairns, the house was moved Connell Street (1st Street East) behind the Forsyth bakery and became their home. That move made way for the Gordon & Lockhart block to be built.

The building was an impressive three section block with their two offices and the expanded drug store, which occupied the southern section. When the building was completed, Dr. Lockhart was joined by his sister, H R Lockhart who ran the drug store. Her drug business prospered, in part because in addition to supplying her brother, the doctor, she was also able to supply her other brother A A Lockhart, a veterinarian, who arrived in Carnduff after he finished his training in the early 1900s.

Around this same time, Dr. Brereton joined Dr. Lockhart in providing medical services to the growing district around Carnduff. He served the area on one of the first motorized bicycles around. Farmers were especially wary of Dr. Brereton and his 'Go Devil' when meeting him on the country trails with their teams.



Later in the decade, Dr. Lockhart joined him in the automotive age, claiming one of the first new McLaughlin Buicks to arrive in the community in 1909.

While the Gordon & Lockhart building remained on this site for many years, its occupants changed on occasion. Dr. Lockhart left in 1912 for 2 years of travel to upgrade his training and shortly after returning in 1914, he chose to enlist and assist with medical needs during World War I. Upon demobilization, he relocated to BC. His sister continued to run the drug store until 1920. Dr. Brereton, now practicing on his own, capably served the community through the tragedy of the flu epidemic of 1918-19. At times, a week would go by without a change of clothes or going home, but finally after many deaths and illnesses in the community, cold weather brought a gradual decline to the outbreak.

This was the catalyst which prompted Dr. Brereton to broach the need for a 'nursing home' to assist expectant mothers and the very ill in the community. Mrs. Tom Reid stepped up offering her home as our first 'medical centre' of sorts. Over the next three decades, until 1954 her residence became a place of care, easing the troubles of the sick and delivering as many as 40 babies each year.



c1950

In 1920, Dr. Floyd Stewart arrived in

Carnduff and stayed providing 31 years of continuous service and commitment to the community. Dr. Stewart set up shop in his residence on McKinnon (1st Street West). He practiced in 2 residences on that street before settling into the large brick Fairbairn residence on the corner of Pacific and McKinnon. This location is still remembered by old timers as "Doc Stewart's Office" .

Shortly after Dr. Stewart retired in 1951, the 7-room Carnduff Health Clinic was opened on 1st Street East, with living quarters on the second floor. A variety of doctors served in the clinic throughout its first couple of decades and the services offered changed with them. Some services such as x-rays were moved to hospital locations and availability of more advanced procedures were lessened locally as more modern facilities opened in larger communities. In 1974, Dr. Rupert Prescott purchased the Carnduff Clinic. An expert handyman, welder, and craftsman as well as doctor, he went on to serve the community for 36 years until his death in 2010 at the age of 84.

With Dr. Lockhart gone, his sister decided to sell the drug store and join him in BC. Roscoe 'Ros' Ramsey bought the drug store and Ramsey's Drugs became a fixture in Carnduff for close to 50 years. With doctors no longer utilizing the Gordon block, Ramsey's Drugs expanded their use of the building. The north portion was utilized as office space at various times by lawyers, real estate & insurance brokers. RM of Mount Pleasant occupied the space for a time prior to their joint office with the Town being built in 1966.

Keith Ramsey took over the drug store from his father in 1950 and ran it for another 20 years until he sold out to an employee, Lil Hamilton and husband, Cec. They started Carnduff Health Supplies and are well remembered for their friendly smiles and warm greetings. Not served by a licensed pharmacist the product lines were altered somewhat and the drug dispensary was moved to the Carnduff Clinic.



After 11 years, Lil and Cec sold in 1981 to a 3-family partnership of Hubbards, Carleys & Youngs. When Rabeau Hardware on Railway Avenue was looking to sell, the partnership bought that business, selling off the hardware inventory and building, while retaining the liquor vendor to add to their line of services at Carnduff Health Supplies. The Hubbards bought out the other partners and were operating it on their own by 1986. In 1991, they decided to liquidate the stock and close the business.

By this point, Forells music store was occupying the northern portion of the building after a fire at the brick bank building across the street had forced a move. A law office occupied a back office in their space and Calvin Lamport moved a small electronics shop into the space previously occupied by the drug store. Sadly, a fire in 1993, ended the 90 year history of the Gordon & Lockhart Block in Carnduff and the lots remained vacant for many years.

Carnduff moved forward despite these setbacks, and in 2011 Prairie Winds Advertising and Sales, owned and operated by Lynn Connelly, opened their brand-new location here on Main Street. The Tony Day Family Medical Clinic attached to Sunset Haven opened its doors in 2013 and now serves Carnduff with medical and eyecare services. Landscapes, locations and faces have changed to the services provided to the Carnduff community over its 125-year history, but its commitment to progress has always kept it looking forward.