



Medicine Hat Clay Industries
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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Opening Reception for 2,500 piece Tony Schlachter Collection on May 9

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Medicine Hat – The largest known collection of Medicine Hat pottery and stoneware is now on permanent display at the Historic Clay District’s Medalta Potteries National Historic Site. The collection – 2,500 pieces in total – was donated to the Friends of Medalta Society by Tony Schlachter in 2008. From 2:00 – 4:00pm on Saturday, May 9, the Historic Clay District is hosting an Opening Reception to celebrate Schlachter’s collection.

Schlachter has been a collector of local pottery since finding a Medalta Potteries chicken waterer on his farm near Bow Island in the 1950’s. Since then, he has amassed an incredible collection from every pottery in Medicine Hat. According to Schlachter, “the true value of any collection is not from owning it, but from being able to share it to others.” He hopes that the collection, which was on display in the basement of his home prior to the donation, will become a major draw in the Historic Clay District.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have a collection like this because it showcases the diversity of our city’s clay industry while celebrating Tony’s dedication to the Friends of Medalta Society” says Barry Finkelman, Executive Director of the Historic Clay District. “It is a wonderful example of the passion that many people have for this area’s industrial past.”

The size and diversity of the A.T. Schlachter Collection broadens the view of the Historic Clay District beyond one factory, the well-known Medalta Potteries, and showcases many of the businesses that contributed to Medicine Hat’s industrial success in the first half of the twentieth century. The collection also showcases the diversity of product made in the area. Many people are aware of the stoneware crocks (which were made as big as fifty gallons) and other utilitarian ware made in Medicine Hat, but are not as familiar with the wide array of artistic lines that were produced by Medalta and Hycroft China. Many collectors focus on one specific line of Medicine Hat pottery, such as artist Ted Hagell’s work, while Schlachter’s collection showcases excellent examples of many different lines.

The Opening Reception is a great opportunity for visitors to see Schlachter’s collection in its entirety, including some one-of-a-kind pieces, meet the collector and learn about Medicine Hat’s rich industrial heritage. There is no charge for the event, which takes place at the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site.

The Historic Clay District is one of eight attractors in the Canadian Badlands and is Western Canada’s largest National Historic Site. The District museum – in the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site – provides visitors a unique opportunity to visit a restored 1912 pottery factory, which once produced three-quarters of all stoneware in Canada. It is operated under the stewardship of the Friends of Medalta Society.

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