

# EASON

## KEEPING THE FAITH

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### Aberhart win remembered

Is it politics or religion? Or does it harken back to an age when the question wasn't "either/or"?

The Alberta Social Credit party is hosting a memorial picnic at historic St. George's Island in Calgary, later this month, commemorating "The Eve of Victory," a 70th-anniversary celebration of the provincial election victory of "Bible Bill" Aberhart, pioneer radio evangelist and founder of the Prophetic Bible Institute.

The speakers for the afternoon include: Mrs. Ernest (Muriel) Manning and her son Preston Manning; party leader Lavern Alstrom; former Sacred Speaker of the house Art Dixon, who is also president of the William Aberhart Historical Foundation; and Walter Strom, brother of former premier Harry Strom.

The meal (at 4 p.m.) will feature Alberta beef hamburgers, and the entertainment will feature the music of the times.

There will also be a staging of Aberhart's own drama, "The Daily Routine Of A Premier," a display of Aberhart and Manning memorabilia, and periodic appearances of "the Man From Mars" (whoever he is).

The Eve of Victory commemoration will be held at the Westlawn Tent of the Calgary Zoo on St. George's Island, on Sunday, Aug. 21, from 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person (including zoo admission after noon).

But RSVP by Aug. 16 at 252-3673 or [www.socialcredit.com](http://www.socialcredit.com)

### Child sponsors recruited

It's still possible to get involved in World Vision's Calgary 2,500 Campaign, recruiting 2,500 child sponsors by Sept. 9, and it can be done in the easiest possible way — by being entertained.

Next week, World Vision is hosting its Sponsor Reception and Concert for the Calgary 2,500 Campaign. The evening will be emceed by CFCN weatherperson Vickie Chase, offer a keynote address by WV's public affairs VP Linda Tripp and include performances by country greats Michelle Wright and Lisa Brokop, plus comic relief by Christian comedian Leland Klassen.

World Vision's Sponsor Reception and Concert will be at the Jack Singer Concert Hall on Thursday, Aug. 11. The lobby doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the reception, and the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. RSVP at 1-800-307-8163 or [www.worldvision.ca/sponsornight](http://www.worldvision.ca/sponsornight) to reserve tickets for pickup at the door.

### Christian bikers camp out

The Calgary Chinook Riders chapter of the international Christian Motorcyclists Association is celebrating its 10th anniversary during the third weekend of August.

There are about 40 active members in Calgary, with as many more in the recently hived-off Airdrie chapter. But what do they do?

"We ride motorcycles — a lot," says organizer Frank Amantea. "And we reach out to the motorcycling community with the love of God. Not in-your-face, but a friendship ministry."

"We wear Christian patches on our jackets at the rallies and shops, and we try to be witnesses to the love of Jesus," says Amantea.

The Calgary Chinook Riders meet weekly for breakfast at Charlie's Cafe, at 12th Street and 40th Avenue N.E., on Saturdays at 10 a.m., and a ride follows, weather permitting.

During the Aug. 20-21 weekend, they are going for an overnight campout. Call 640-2038, or Google Christian Motorcyclists Association of Canada.



Calgary Herald Archive

Premier William Aberhart is mobbed at a picnic on Calgary's St. George's Island in 1936, a year after he led the Socreds to an election victory.

August 20/2005

## Socred leaders salute 'Bible Bill'

This Sunday will see a memorial to the influence of Christian principles on Alberta politics, when Social Credit luminaries celebrate the 70th anniversary of "Bible Bill" Aberhart's victory in the 1935 provincial election.

Historic figures in the Alberta Social Credit movement will meet in the Westlawn Tent on Saint George's Island (Calgary Zoo), the venue for the largest Social Credit rallies of the past. Muriel Manning, wife of the late Premier Ernest C. Manning, and her son Preston Manning will lead the speaker's list. Former Socred Speaker of the House Art Dixon will address the audience on the work of the William Aberhart Historical Foundation. And greetings will be brought by former Socred MLAs Ray Speaker and Bob Clark.

Recorded greetings to this historic gathering will be played from Aberhart's granddaughter, Patti Hilton, former Premier Harry Strom's brother Walter Strom, and former B.C. Socred Premier Bill Vander Zalm.

A special greeting will also be played from the leader of the new Social Credit Party of the Solomon Islands, Manasseh Sogavare, an MP and former Premier of the Solomons.

The Eve of Victory Anniversary celebration will be held at St. George's Island on Sunday, Aug. 21, at 2:30 p.m.

Admit One

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**"Eve of Victory"**  
**70th Anniversary**  
**Alberta Social Credit**  
**Election Win**

**Westlawn Tent**  
(Near Dino the Dinosaur)  
**St. George's Island**  
**Calgary Zoo**  
**1300 Zoo Road NE**

**Sunday August 21st, 2005**  
**2:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Program & Drama - 2:30 PM**  
**BBQ Meal - 4:00 PM**  
(Show zoo entrance pass or  
ask for one at gate)

**\$25.00 per person**

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**Inquiries:**  
**Phone (403)252-3673**

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**General Seating**

## ANNIVERSARY PARTY

# Socreds celebrate Aberhart victory

EMMA POOLE  
CALGARY HERALD

**I**t was a day to remember the successes of the past, the struggles of the present and, for roughly 100 members of the Alberta Social Credit party, plan for the future.

It was 70 years ago today that the party and its leader, William Aberhart, won a historic election that would see the party stay in power for 36 years.

On Sunday, members of the party reminisced about the old days. They met on the same spot — St. George's Island on the Bow River — where Aberhart and his supporters gathered to celebrate the one-year anniversary of their famous victory in the midst of the Depression.

"Alberta learned in the bad times (that) you couldn't count on the federal government to take care of you and so you better to care of yourself in the good times," said guest speaker Preston Manning.

"I think there's lessons from those hard time that are applicable to these prosperous times," said Manning, founder of the Reform party and son of longtime Socred Premier Ernest Manning. "Alberta's patterns are unique — long periods of one-party government, political upheaval."

Ray Speaker, a former cabinet minister in Ernest Manning's government, said the group will have to wait for the right moment to break back into the provincial scene.

"I've gone through this type of metamorphosis that the current Social Credit party is trying to bring into being, you know, as a strong political agent in Alberta," said Speaker, who formed the Representative party in the 1980s, then joined the Alberta Tories, and later Reform.

"It's a tough job and a big challenge. To bring about political change by any kind of a political movement is very, very, difficult."

Speaker said the next federal election could form the basis for Alberta's political direction.



Ted Rhodes, Calgary Herald

Muriel Manning, 94, wife of Alberta's longest serving premier, Ernest Manning (1943-1968), cuts a cake on Sunday marking the 70th anniversary of the Social Credit party coming to power in Alberta. In the background is Muriel's son, Preston Manning, founder of the Reform party.