

George Ross and George Rice served in the Air Force during World War I. They met during this service and became good friends. Ross sold the house to George Rice, Q.C. in 1939. When George moved in he bought paint to paint the house, which was in dire need for a fix-up. The paint was still in the basement when they sold the house. The Rice family were great entertainers and marvelous hosts. Many celebrities and V.I.P.'s have been entertained at 'Annandale'.

In about 1973 the glory era of Annandale came to a close. It then was purchased at several different times as revenue party and fell into a state of disrepair. We purchased the property in 1984. Since this time the restoration project has been ongoing. The primary upgrading of the electrical and plumbing and insulation were accomplished just before we took possession of the home. The basic style of the home is characteristic of the period of construction "**Victorian Queen Anne**" style, with arches on the front veranda and diamond patterned upper windows. The interior is restored as much as possible to its original condition.

On Monday, 10 November 2008, Annandale, the first site in Lethbridge, was granted Municipal Historic Resource status under new provincial law. Some of the defining characters of the home associated with this designation are:

- Flared hip roof with flared hip dormers
- Eaves with large outriggers
- Open veranda with slender Doric columns
- Semi-circular archway over entrance
- Two brick chimneys with indentations and corbels
- Cedar shiplap wood siding with exposed face

1909 renovations: digging out the dirt basement and pouring concrete and painting of home were in part funded by the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.

Annandale has been painted in the style of the traditional 'Victorian Painted Ladies'.



"HISTORIC ANNANDALE" AT CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS AT 'HISTORIC ANNANDALE'

COME VIEW THE BEAUTY
OF A VICTORIAN HOME
DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS

Sponsored by the
Lethbridge Family Circle Association
"Family Village"
and the Bland Family

Tour the inside—see the Victorian village, the 12 foot tree
and many other delights—then tour the yard

HOT CHOCOLATE AND CIDER WILL BE
PROVIDED
WITH A CANDY CANE FOR YOUNG AND OLD



DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED FOR THE FOOD BANK

Our home at 1280 – 4 Avenue South was built in 1909 for Lewis Martin Johnstone, K.C., and as was the English custom of naming residences it was called Annandale. The home received its name after a glen on the English-Scottish border along the Annon River which was the ancestral home of the Johnstone clan. The name, Annandale, was placed as a concrete curbstone on the corner of Westminster and Dufferin (13th Street and 4th Avenue). We have located the curbstone which had been used as ballast below a concrete step. It has been restored and is now at the back gate (often mistaken as a tombstone).

L.M. Johnstone started his practice about 1900 and after the home was built moved his office into the home for a short time. Johnstone was noted for numerous interesting things. He owned a large Pierce Arrow Touring car (one of, if not the first in Alberta). His wife was a very small woman and when she drove the car it has been said that it looked like the car was driverless.

L.M. Johnstone pioneered numerous ventures; a) he was the originator of Huckvale and Company, a law firm that still operates to this day and b) he was one of the originators of the Chinook Club [the Chinook Club is now a "Bed and Breakfast" out by the Lethbridge Airport].

L.M. Johnstone moved to Victoria about 1935 and rented the house to the Bank of Nova Scotia for a short time as a residence for its manager. In May of 1994, Mr. Ed Mitten dropped by our home and asked for a tour. He had lived here as a youngster when his father was the Bank Manager. During his visit he stated that the home was much as he remembered it, and was glad to see that it had been restored. It held a lot of happy memories for him. When Mr. Mitten was transferred the home was sold to the Ross family. In 1998 Mr. Mitten's sons came by to see the house where their father had lived. Mr. Mitten had passed away the previous year and they were on a journey of reviewing his past.

George Ross, a prominent southeastern Alberta cattle rancher purchased the home in 1937 to provide a home for his family to live in while the children were attending school. One of the children, was Walter "Stubb" Ross, founder of "Time Airways". Stubb used to ride a hand built, metal toy train around the perimeter sidewalks of the house. This train is presently at the entrance gate to the family ranch at Aden. The detail of the toy train is amazing.