



**A STORY OF  
RANCHING  
& SHOWING  
CATTLE,**  
*Jim Haughton*



# KAMLOOPS HAS A RICH COWBOY HISTORY.

WE CELEBRATE THIS HISTORY TWICE ANNUALLY DURING THE KAMLOOPS COWBOY FESTIVAL IN MARCH AND THE PROVINCIAL WINTER FAIR IN SEPTEMBER.

The Haughton Family personify this celebrated culture in Kamloops; they are pioneers. Their roots in 4-H Club and the Kamloops Bull Sale go back to 1928 and 1929 respectively. They have been proudly involved in the Provincial Winter Fair and the Kamloops Cowboy Festival for decades. This is Jim Haughton's story.

Jim was born in Kamloops in the front of a farm truck outside the Knutsford General Store, a short drive from where the Kamloops Visitor Centre sits today. The family home was only a few miles away but road conditions were tough and the journey to the hospital took a little longer than he cared to wait.

Jim was brought to the hospital in a delivery box from the store; his birth certificate tells the tale of his early arrival. He was born into a ranching family, second oldest of four boys, in 1948.

Jim's Grandfather settled in the Knutsford area in 1909. To secure a homesteaders grant, he had to break 30 acres of land for agriculture. Jim's family initially operated the land as a grain farm and maintained dairy cows; it did not take them long to put down ranching roots and decide to raise cattle. The Haughton Ranch is well known in Kamloops – a bit of a landmark – and was inducted into the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame as a Century Ranch at the Kamloops Cowboy Festival on March 13th, 2015.





Jim joined 4-H in 1958 at the age of ten, showing his first cattle at the old Kamloops Stockyard on 10th and Lorne Street, downtown, a location that tourists can still visit; but today you'll see the Pavilion Theatre at this cross street. A huge advocate of the 4-H Club and Provincial Winter Fair, Jim says it teaches kids how to work with each other, care for their animals and manage finances. With so many opportunities to accomplish, do, achieve and win, he considers the program one of the best.

His first 4-H Leader was the late Lindo Giacomuzzi followed by his Dad, Ernie Haughton alongside Stan and Margaret Scott, Hilbert DeLeeuw, Reg Pain and Warner Philip, all well-known names in Kamloops' ranching legacy. Almost all are still predominant ranching families in the area.

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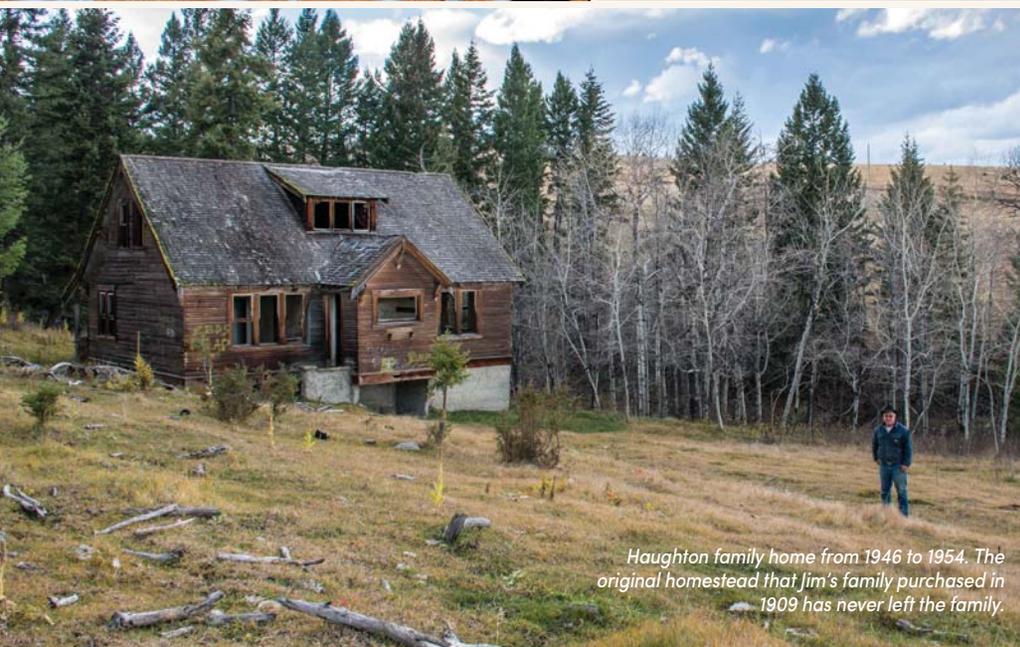


Jim graduated from 4-H in 1969, at 21 years of age. In his final year of 4-H he won the "Grand Champion Steer" title and has continued to compete and win awards in the open classes ever since. This past year he even set the longest record with 58 consecutive years of showing in the Provincial Winter Fair.

This year Jim took home awards for Reserve Champion Steer, Champion Carcass Steer, Champion Open Heifer and Champion Open Female. "I've been cowboying all my life. When it comes to show time, the blood starts to pump," Jim explains.

Today Jim runs 100 cattle on several hundred acres. Most days he can be found in the fields with his cattle and dog Harley or in his work yard not far from the home he grew up in. Jim's work yard and some of the original homesteads from this era can be seen from the Old Merritt Highway as you enter Kamloops.

The Circle Creek Equestrian Centre in Knutsford is the new home of the Provincial Winter Fair which is going into its 79th year. The public fair is held in September and anyone is welcome to take part. The fair has become an attraction for many tourists and is an important part of not only Kamloops' ranching history, but all of British Columbia's.



*Haughton family home from 1946 to 1954. The original homestead that Jim's family purchased in 1909 has never left the family.*

**#EXPLOREKAMLOOPS**