

# Demolition begins on historic Moose Lodge

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Demolition was in full-swing Wednesday morning starting at 9 a.m. at the site of the now former Medicine Hat Moose Lodge.

Clusters of curious on-lookers gathered along both sides of 13th Avenue to watch as two large backhoes slowly dug away at the landmark city structure that has been a part of the community for over 30 years.

Classic Communities was also on site to oversee the demolition and continue work on their latest adult condominiums project, Norwood Grande. In its first phase of construction, Norwood Grande will also be the home of the new Moose Lodge and recreation centre on the ground and second floor portion of the main building.

"Everyone in the city knows where the Moose is," said Jason Prokosch, director of marketing and sales at Classic Communities.

"People have held their wedding receptions there, played in bands there . . . it has some pretty deep roots in the community," Prokosch said of the emotional aspect to some Hatter's responses to the dismantling of the building.

George Copeman, local governor of the Moose Association, was also on site Wednesday morning to watch the building slowly disappear.

"I've been involved with the Moose for about 26 years, and we're really sorry to see it go," said Copeman.

He noted that declining membership to help sustain such a large space prompted the decision to sell the building and surrounding land to Classic Communities.

The demolition is expected to last three to four days.

**NEWS PHOTO KIM BRATVOLD**

Demolition of the Moose Lodge began Wednesday morning.



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