

## Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting for the Canadian Northern (Meeting Creek) Historical Society (o/a Canadian Northern Society) for 1:30 pm Saturday, April 28, 2007 at Canadian Northern Railway depot, Meeting Creek Alberta.

Nominations are now being accepted by the Secretary, [secretary@canadiannorthern.ca](mailto:secretary@canadiannorthern.ca) for the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors. Nominations will be accepted up until nominations declared closed at the Annual General Meeting.

*All are welcome to the annual meeting—it would be great to see some new faces.*

**Meeting Creek Clean-up, April 28.** Those wishing to join us prior to the Annual General Meeting for a station and grounds clean up should gather at 10:00 am at the station. A picnic lunch will be served for those who participate. We will carry on following the Annual General Meeting if there is work that remains.

**Visit the newly designed and updated Canadian Northern Society web site at [www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca).**

## Big Valley Clean-Up and Potluck Supper

Weather permitting, a work bee is planned for May 12, 2007, around the Big Valley station, roundhouse, and Hall of Fame Pavilion, mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Please consider joining us to help prepare the site for the upcoming tourist season!

*Following the planned workbee at Big Valley on May 12, the Annual Big Valley Historical Society and Canadian Northern Society Potluck Dinner will be held at the Big Valley Senior Citizens Drop-In Centre, starting at 5:30 pm.*

Don't miss the chance to meet your fellow volunteers and enjoy some delicious home cooking. All are welcome. Please bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert of your choice. Call Fran Stuber at (403) 876-2349 with any questions.

## From the Royal Mail

**Jasper, February 18, 2007**

*Enclosed please find my cheque for my 2007 membership renewal and a cash donation to the Society. I think it is great that our snowplow #55351 is now at Big Valley. As a Rocky Mountain Rail Society/Canadian Northern Society member, I look forward to seeing it in "Canadian Northern" territory. Did I tell you that it is in fact the second snow plow that the CNR donated to us? The first one, the 55350 derailed en route at Hinton, Alberta and was destroyed there. The 55351 now at Big Valley came from Prince George, BC, and we were indeed lucky with it—somewhere en route—the right front arch bar was broken!  
All the best to Harry Stuber and please say hello to Allan Johnston for me.*

Sincerely,  
Harry R.J. Home

**Englewood, Colorado, February 20, 2007**

*Enclosed please find my membership renewal for 2007. I wish to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to all of you on the 20th anniversary year of the Society.*

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Nancy J. Westland.

## Acknowledgements

## Canadian Northern Society Prairie Trivia

Sincere thanks to Marianna Mather of New York, NY, Clayton and Ruth Jones of Surrey, BC, and Harry R.J. Home of Jasper, Alberta, for their generous cash donations.

Thank you sincerely to Dean and Lorrie Tiegs, Edmonton, for their fine efforts in re-launching the Canadian Northern Society website, and to Lorrie for the fine inserts and re-design of the *Canora Chronicle*, celebrating the society's 20th Anniversary.

Thank you to Les and Donna Langille and Tri-L Construction of Red Willow for the generous cash donation received with their 2007 membership renewal.

The entire Canadian Northern Society is indebted to Harry Stuber of Big Valley for his yearly salesmanship of memberships in the Big Valley district. This year Harry will have sold well in excess of \$1500 in memberships. Thank you Harry, and Fran, and to all of the Big Valley members who each year listen to Harry's pitch (and bad jokes) and support the Canadian Northern Society. It is greatly appreciated.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Big Valley Branch No. 70, was chartered in 1928. Meetings were held in the dining room of the old Frontenac Hotel until the Second World War broke out in 1939. Following the Second World War, a re-organizational meeting was held in the waiting room of our own CNR station. Mr. George Fowler, station agent at the time, kindly gave permission to hold Legion meetings in the depot waiting room until new quarters were found in the spring of 1946. The present home of Branch No. 70, the former Snake Lake School, was purchased from the County in 1951 and moved to its current site on main street by Archie McAlister, serving as home for the Legion for now over half a century.

Similarly, Church services were held in many railway depot waiting rooms across the prairies in the early days of the last century—we know from local history that this included the Presbyterian congregation at Big Valley. Interestingly, Presbyterian churches were organized in both the railway depots at Carstairs and Ponoka, Alberta, in 1895, a few years after the construction of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway. Church buildings would follow a few years later in both towns. The Knox Presbyterian Church in Carstairs is now a registered historic site and an excellent local museum.

Remember Calgary Beer? The classic Calgary buffalo horseshoe logo? On March 17, 1893, the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company launched production. Without a doubt, it may have been served at some St. Patrick Day celebrations in early Calgary!

From *Railroad Magazine*, September 1949:

"On the Jasper Park Lodge golf course in the famed Canadian Rockies, the thirteenth hole is downhill all the way and the green is hidden for the approach shot to the fairway. When players 'hole out' and leave the green, they ring a bell to inform approaching golfers that the green is free. The bell is suspended from a tree just behind the green, enclosed in a wooden structure, with a dangling cord. A sign reads 'Please ring off when leaving green.' The bell is a relic of the first engine to reach Jasper on the transcontinental mainline. A few years ago, when Noble Findlay, the locomotive's engineer, retired from CNR service, co-workers tendered him a banquet and brought over the bell from the golf course for the festivities!"

—Can any of our *Chronicle* readers tell us more about this interesting bit of trivia?

From the *Hanna Herald*, February 21, 1929:

"Extensions made to CNR Roundhouse—A new turn table, a new roof on the roundhouse, and extensions to five stalls that will make it possible for the largest locomotives in use on the Canadian National Railways to be housed here, are among the construction works which will be undertaken by the Company at this terminal in 1929. Work will commence as soon as the weather permits."



Carstairs, 1965.



Ponoka Station Drawing.  
Unknown date and artist.

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### FUNNY BUSINESS SIGNS

Plumber:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

Pizza shop slogan:

"7 days without pizza makes one weak."

At a tire shop:

"Invite us to your next blow out."

Sign at the psychic's hotline:

"Don't call us, we'll call you."

At a towing company:

"We don't charge an arm and a leg.  
We want tows."

# Camrose News

The workshop on 'Celebrating Aboriginal Roots' was enjoyable. Thank you to Robbie O'Riordan for collecting the tins we needed to make drums. I will be helping with the Aboriginal Day at the Centennial Museum on June 21 at the storytelling station. Usually around 300 children attend this event. What a wonderful way to build community and understanding.

The gardening courses facilitated by Gary Taylor have been well attended and are very informative. Thank you, Gary. The course running now is on the 'Fundamentals of Gardening.' 28 people are registered. They are held for three Tuesday evenings.

The new kitchen extension is wonderful and adds to the enjoyment of working together to prepare for groups and events. Sharon Zacharuk will be assisting with cooking and hostessing through the summer. Judy Ross will continue to assist with baking bread and buns. We are so fortunate to have these two ladies to help, as we can't expect our volunteers to do all the food preparation now as we have so many bookings. Bookings are coming in for the spring and summer.

The Valentine's Supper at the station was a great success. Because so many people wanted to attend we used the King George Room as well as the tea room. We served 57 people. The food and hostessing was wonderful thanks to Judy Ross, Carol and Murray Roy, Karina Cross and Bruce Smith. A special thank-you goes out to all these people as well as our entertainers. Lyndy Olson played classical guitar throughout the meal and Nansee Hughes sang after the meal.

The Saint Patrick's Supper was held on March 17 and was sold out well ahead of time. Again our volunteers came through and a wonderful meal was served. Thank you to Carol Rawson, Gladys

Douglas, Elizabeth Bagdan, Norm and Cheryl Prestage, and Bruce Smith. Sarah Ross also helped with hostessing at this event. We served 54 people, which included the band and their wives. A special thank you goes to Margaret Rhine who spent a great deal of time preparing a travelogue presentation on Ireland. We also want to thank Dolores Shultz and the band Friends, for their music and sing-along.

We spent an enjoyable day on March 14 at Bill and Gladys Douglas's home making pyrogies for our Ukrainian Day on August 25. We have also slated this day as a celebration of the society's 20th anniversary and to dedicate the new kitchen addition. We hope to again raise community awareness regarding the society and its contributions to Alberta and all the communities where our sites are located.

We have applied for two students, one through STEP and one through SJP (changed from the SCAP program). We must have students to be able to offer the children's and adult programming through the summer. All our themed events are advertised on the Travel Alberta, Canadian Northern and the Tourism Camrose web sites.

Camrose City council voted unanimously to seek designation for the Camrose Railway Station as a historical resource. The process has commenced. This will mean we will once again be eligible for Historic Foundation funds. I would like to extend a thank you to our city council for their support.

We would like to welcome our new volunteers:

- Susan Perkins, who has been working in the archives and library. She will be helping later with the garden and children's programming.
- Bridgett Kennedy who will assist with baking and help in the garden.
- Terry Wolfe who will be working at preparing the bunk house for

opening, painting and repairing birdhouses, painting the Morgan Garden Railway fence, helping with running the train in the garden and other maintenance and restoration tasks.

- Helga Waterodt who will be helping with various tasks including children's programs and baking.

A letter will soon be going out to volunteers to outline upcoming activities and we are asking for you to indicate what you are able to assist with.

We would like to sincerely thank the following people for their donations to the society:

- Robbie O'Riordan for white elephant table items.
- Peggy Shuman for the Phillips vacuum sealer and white elephant table items.
- Ted and Carol Rawson for white elephant table items and potatoes for all our events.
- Margaret Wilde from Regina for a 1916 Canadian Northern Timetable in good condition. They will be donating a wooden grain wagon that is in excellent shape. It is a Northern Railway wagon. We would like to place the wagon in Meeting Creek. This is a wonderful donation for our prairie history.
- Buzy B Bargain Store at Tofield for a 1960 CN blanket, children's story books on trains and other railway memorabilia.
- Marg and Guy Ormson of Calgary for two lanterns, tea lights and two large coffee carafes for the Tearoom.
- Joyce Wilcox for a large framed picture of the *Newfie Bullet*, the train that carried troops in Newfoundland during World War II, and a photo of 2398 on the Hardisty hill painted by Margaret Skoberg.
- Wolf Kirchmeir for Canadian National Annual Reports and other paper archival material.
- Archie Heather for five CN and VIA uniforms. One conductor and one trainman's uniform date from

## Camrose Con't.

1949. Two CN uniforms from 1974 and 1979. One VIA uniform from 1981.

- Norm Corness for a wonderful collection of Canadian Northern filled in paper archives and other memorabilia.
- Shawn Smith for library books: *Booklet for Students Regarding Wheat* and *Westbound: A Portfolio of Western Railroading* by Mike Chandler.
- Cec Atkinson for a wooden dispatcher's chair.
- We also received financial donations from the Thrift Shop and Zarski's Auto Body Shop.

Thanks to Susan Perkins all the paper archive material has been catalogued, preserved and filed ready for use in displays when needed.

I encourage you to join us for a wonderful old-fashioned day at Meeting Creek by working together to prepare the station and elevator for the season. We will be car-pooling from Camrose.

**1887, May 23 – The CP main line is extended 12.2 miles along Burrard Inlet to Vancouver. The first train is pulled by Port Moody based locomotive No. 374, now preserved at the Vancouver Drake Street roundhouse.**

**1957, May 17 – Canadian National opens a 40 mile diversion of its Montréal to Toronto main line required in the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway.**

## “V” for Victory

by Norman F. Corness

An annual promotional campaign for Victory Bonds took place every summer during the war on the CNR in Edmonton. This took the form of a special train bringing employees from the old Canadian Northern Railway south yards (or “City Yards” as they were also known—now the site of Grant McEwan College) to the Calder car shops for a pep rally.

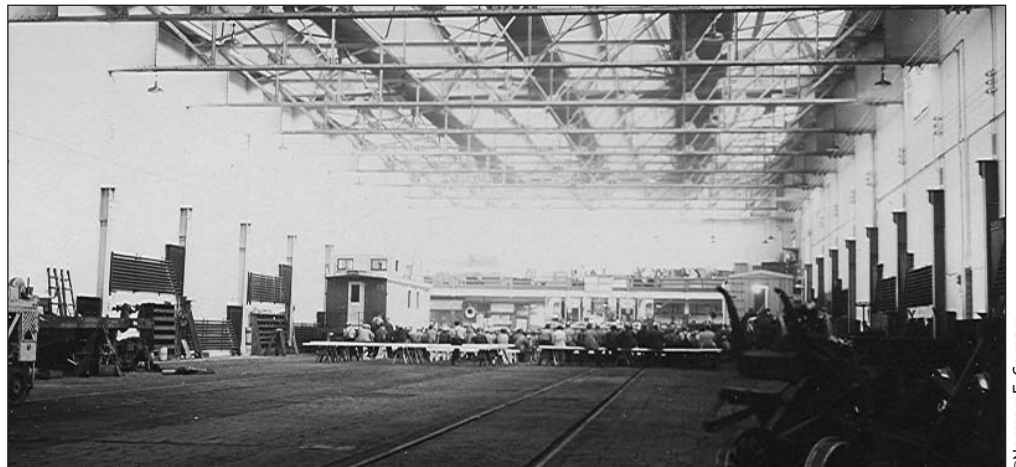
The car shop, much smaller than it is today, had been cleared of rolling stock under repair and replaced with a stage and rows and rows of chairs for seating. In 1943, the first year I joined the railway, CN steam engine No. 5149 (a Pacific class engine) brought five coach loads of employees up to this rally!

The following year, in 1944, more coaches were added and a larger engine was used—a decorated Mountain-type, No. 6044. Since it could not negotiate the short arm of the wye by the sand pile at Calder (due to track geometry limitations), a yard engine took over to bring the train into Calder Yard. In the meantime, No. 6044 continued to the West Junction and came back to the roundhouse turn table to be turned, ready for the trip back to the South Yards.



Shown at the Calder car shops, the 5149 is ready to return to the South Yards from the Victory Bond Rally in 1943.

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Inside the Calder Car Shops, set up for the Employee Victory Bond Rally.

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The *Canora Chronicle* is the quarterly newsletter of the Canadian Northern Society—a registered charity dedicated to providing community service through heritage tourism initiatives. The editors may be contacted through the Canadian Northern headquarters (see page 1) or directly at their home:

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