



# the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

## Acknowledgements

The Canadian Northern Society would like to acknowledge the continued contribution of Alberta Prairie Railway Excursions to its preservation efforts at Big Valley. Alberta Prairie continues as it has for twenty years to provide the society with regular contributions that defray the cost of insurance, maintenance, and repair of the Big Valley station and grounds. This partnership has worked extremely well with the Alberta Prairie Railway folks now taking an active role in helping keep the station a focal point in the community—which is indeed the society's objective. Thank you again to Don, Bob, and staff for the continued support.

Noted railway author and historian Charles W. Bohi of White River Jct., VT, is a founding member of our society and generous supporter. Charles and his wife Lynn have recently donated an electronic disk of station photographs taken by Chuck on his many trips to western Canada during the early to mid-1970s as he criss-crossed the prairies collecting depot photos. This donation is sincerely appreciated and will reside in our society archives.



Ron Bailey

The Canadian Northern Society is privileged to hold in trust for future generations of researchers and historians some wonderful railway artifacts and books donated by long-time supporter and Railway Hall of Famer R.M. (Ron) Bailey.

Many of our members will know that Ron is a keen railway historian, having been a railroader all of his life, retiring as Regional Chief Engineer of CN's Mountain Region in the mid-1980s. Ron is another living link to the old Canadian Northern Railway—his father W.R. (Bill) Bailey was a locomotive engineer

who began his career on the Canadian Northern, working in prairie terminals like Radville, Saskatoon, Humboldt, and Kamsack over the years.

The Society library in the Camrose depot has been significantly enhanced with the donation of many hard-cover books including historical volumes on Canadian railway heritage such as *Steam on the Kettle Valley*, *The Great Scot*—an autobiography of Donald Gordon (a former CN President)—and *Canadian Pacific—A Century of Corporate Power*. In addition there are many fascinating U.S. railroad books such as *The Nickel Plate Road—History of a Great Railroad*, *The Lackawanna Story*, and *Men of Erie*.

Ron has also donated much of his engineering survey equipment and related field notes from a lifetime career on the Canadian National that can be displayed as part of future engineering exhibits, and used for educational programs. A number of framed prints featuring various railway themes were also donated and have found their way to Big Valley and Meeting Creek. In addition, his collection included some scale models from a family model layout that are now on display, including a model of the Big Valley Canadian Northern Railway depot that Ron built. Further artifacts included a depot spittoon, a telegraph key, and an antique station platform lamp from the depot at Redditt, Ontario, that is now safely held at Meeting Creek.

Special thanks to Ron's son Grant who made the arrangements to donate this wonderful collection of lifetime history to the Canadian Northern Society, and to Bruce Smith for lending his truck to load up the items in Edmonton.

Ron and his wife Marion have recently located from their south side home in Edmonton into a new seniors apartment complex where they are now settling into and enjoying.

Thank you again to Ron and the Bailey family.



An example of the photographs in the Canadian Northern Society's Charles W. Bohi collection.  
Meeting Creek, AB, July 1973.

## CAMROSE EVENTS

It's rather unbelievable, but true, that every season seems to get busier! 2010 at the Camrose Railway Station was wonderful and very busy. We've now said goodbye to our students: Penny Nelson has returned to Nova Scotia and school; Lindsay Sims also returns to school, but fortunate for us, locally. She still intends to be an active part of our volunteer family and the volunteer spearhead of the station recipe book! Our congratulations also to Lindsay on her August 21 marriage to Jaime Aicken.

Year one of having Joanne Hildebrandt in the catering position of the Station Café was extremely successful and a welcome relief to Glenys. We look forward to that delicious partnership continuing.

*Friends of the Station* continue to meet and are a great communication and volunteer coordination tool. Christmas Breakfast Meeting, tentative date: November 23, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

A huge thank you goes to all our many volunteers who helped over the past few months, and to those who made donations:

CPR - donated CPR dishes to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Last Spike (November 7). Bill Walker will be making a cabinet for this display.

Robbie O'Riordan - book *History of Edmonton Chamber of Commerce* includes railway history.

Carol and Murray Roy - painting picnic tables

Hilda Saddleback - continuing archival project along with many days of volunteering with events and cooking.

Founders Day Pie Makers - Carol Roy, Joanne Kulich, Debra Jessop, Linda Darnell and Gladys Douglas. Joanne and Robbie for additional bread making.

Bruce Smith - many hours of maintenance, yard work and running of the Garden Railway.

Joanne Hildebrandt - for donating time in the kitchen for Founders Days - nearly \$2,000 raised in Tea-room and gift sales.

Norm Mayer - \$100 donation

Janine Carroll - 1940s and '50s dishes for Meeting Creek and some outdoor furniture we are going to paint over the winter.

Glenys Smith - many hours of garden and Station work, spearheading volunteer projects and all the other many things she does.

To the four women who presented at the Tribute to Pioneer Women event, which was very successful!

Diana Nickel for the donation of many original pieces of artwork for the Gift Shop and all who continue to donate to the gift shop.

Ruby Lampkin - several pieces of royal dishware for display in the King George Room.

Speeder repairs - Jim Huber

Thanks to our student volunteer hostesses: Ashleigh Dickson and Taytem Syrynk.

There were many other volunteers in the Station Café and for events, I hope I don't miss anyone - Elizabeth Bagdan, Gladys Douglas, Carol Farquharson, Matilda Fleck, Debra Jessop, Gladys Kupka, Dorothy Lysons, Barb MacDonald, Ann Reitan, Carol Roy, Linda Darnell, Joanne Kusalik, Caitlin Thomson, Jaime Aicken, Mrs. Sims.

Founders Day set-up and take-down Zach and Josh Selin, Meagan Carroll, Jeb Carroll. Thanks also to the City of Camrose for assisting us with equipment borrowed from the Arts Society and to the CRE for allowing us to borrow tables.

Thanks to all who entertained at the Station Founders Day talent event and to the Morley Riske and Friends Band. Thanks to our Jane Austin character Marguerite Jenzen Van Doren, to Lucie the Clown and Jackie Munro for her puppet show and face painting.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

will be held on Saturday, September 18, at 5 p.m. at the Camrose Station.

*At the end of September the Alberta Museums Association will be recognizing Glenys Smith for her amazing contribution to community and ability to involve people in history at their gala held in Edmonton. Congratulations Glenys! You are very deserving of this honour!*

We have been chosen to work an Edmonton Oilers 50/50 draw, Saturday, March 26, 2011! Anticipated earnings is about \$16,000 which will be put towards hiring an educational and event coordinator. This is all part of a sustainability project - we'll have a complete report in the next addition of the *Chronicle*.

*~ Janine Carroll*

---

Autumn is a season for big decisions; like whether or not it's too late to start spring cleaning.

Asked to write a composition entitled, "What I'm thankful for on Thanksgiving," little Timothy wrote, "I am thankful that I'm not a turkey."

## IN HISTORY

**1885-11-07 (125 years ago):** The last spike is driven in the first Canadian transcontinental main line at Craigellachie, B.C., in the Eagle Pass. Van Horne makes his famous fifteen-word speech, "All I can say is that the work has been well done in every way."

**1960-11-06 (50 years ago):** The last steam locomotive to operate officially on Canadian Pacific pulls a special train to Saint-Lin-Laurentides from Montréal. Locomotive is class A-1-e No. 29, 4-4-0 built in 1887.

## BIG VALLEY UPDATE



©S.L. Smith

*On behalf of the Canadian Northern Society we wish to sincerely thank Kathy Evans and all of the many other volunteers for your dedication and volunteer time you have put into the Big Valley station this summer.*

*The station and grounds were kept clean, tidy and very presentable for all the visitors to enjoy!*

*Thank You!*

This summer has really flown by with all the rain, and injured volunteer maintenance has really been a challenge.

We are very proud of our station and enjoy watching people make use of our grounds and get excited about our displays and use the community meeting room.

Train days are special as we meet people from all over the world.

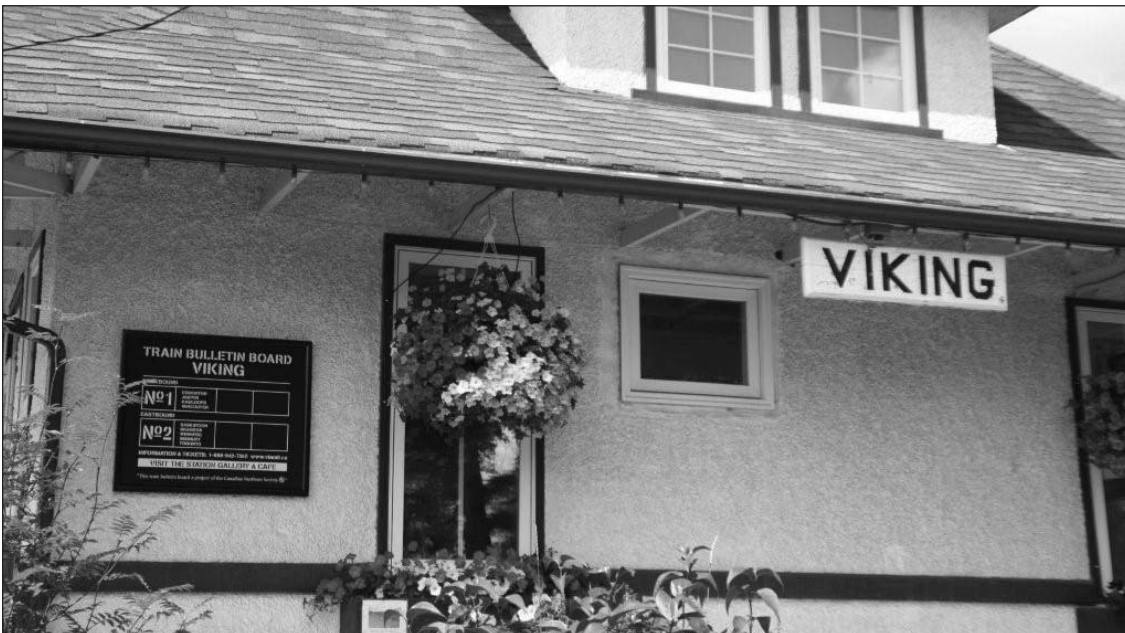
Thank you to all our volunteers: Keith Cambell, Donna Clark, Penni and Andy Clarke, Rod Couturier,

Russ Evans, Phyllis and Wayne Garrison, Vi and Ron Milton, Prairie Steam for cutting grass around the tracks when we couldn't keep up, Art and Anne Tizzard, Russell and Alice-Faye Watt, Curt and Connie Watts.

The Big Valley group also has a new volunteer, Chad Mailer, who helped out this year at the station. To have a young man helping gives us hope that in the future the younger people will take over!

Thank you all for your time and dedication to our station.

*~ Kathy Evans*



©S.L. Smith

The Canadian Northern Society is proud to illustrate our latest contribution we made in the form of a train bulletin board to the Viking Station Gallery and Arts Centre.

## MEETING CREEK NEWS

Thanks to Bruce Smith, Lorrie and Dean Tiegs, Lorene Bergstrom, Brent Cheek, Don Gillespie, and Shawn, Liam, and Adam Smith for the continued volunteer efforts at Meeting Creek this summer. It has been a challenge this year keeping up with the grounds maintenance, and pumping water from under the station given the significant rainfall we have received this year. However, the country is finally green, and there is water in the creek for a change.

Storms have also caused damage to the vintage tin siding on the grain elevator, and we will need to replace several tin squares on the cupola—requiring a specialized contractor. At the station, we are in the process of developing an improved sump and drainage system to pump out the storm water from under the building that generally accumulates in the springtime, but has been there all summer this year.

We have written our local members of the Legislative Assembly and Alberta Community Development to seek support for continued funding for the preservation of the Meeting Creek elevator, which now is in need of some major repair work around the foundation of the structure.

This work was identified in an inspection conducted by Alberta Community Development in 2008, and we now hope to apply for funding and implement the repairs. Further to the Meeting Creek specific repairs, we have requested a meeting with the deputy minister to discuss the merits of developing a “grain elevator corridor” between Meeting Creek and Rowley, with the emphasis being on the continued preservation and long term use of the remaining wooden elevators at Meeting Creek, Stettler, Big Valley, and Rowley. We believe that significant funding resources will need to be set aside into the future if these structures are going to continue to survive in the small rural communities.

Our contractor, Graham Chillingworth, has done an excellent job of re-roofing the Canadian Northern section toolhouse with cedar shingles, and the building will soon receive a new coat of paint.

Thanks to David Buhler and Bruce Smith for repairing the telegraph practice set, and to R.M. Bailey and Grant Bailey for the donation of the antique platform lamp (rescued from the former National Transcontinental depot at Redditt, Ontario,

before its demolition in the 1980s) that would have adorned the outside wall of the station when it was first opened in 1913.

We continue to need help at Meeting Creek for the many maintenance tasks that are required in preserving a 1917 elevator and 1913 railway station that are now starting to have structural issues manifest themselves. As a group, we will need to focus on this reality over the next year or so to ensure we are equipped for the next 25 years of preservation challenges.

With Meeting Creek being such a tiny community, individuals from outside of the immediate hamlet are welcome to become involved. Rewarding volunteer tasks include general maintenance and upkeep, painting, general housekeeping, grass and weed cutting and grounds keeping, and developing and providing historical interpretation. In addition, the society is seeking those who may be interested in fund raising for future preservation work—another large challenge for a small organization. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Janine Carroll at [canadian-northern@telus.net](mailto:canadian-northern@telus.net) or by phone at 780 672 3099.

### Third Annual Harvest Festival

Meeting Creek Railway Station & Elevator - Just off Highway 56, 30 minutes south of Camrose

Saturday, October 2, 2010 12 noon to 5 p.m.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Noon - 5:00 Tours of Station & Elevator  
1:00 - 2:00 Music  
2:00 - 2:30 Cowboy Poet Vic Stuckey  
2:30 - 3:30 Music  
2:30 onward - Children's Pumpkin Fest!  
- Pumpkin Games  
- Pumpkin Stories  
Hourly Speeder Rides

*Concession - including Whistlestop Hotdogs, homemade pie, pumpkin cookies and much more!*

A day of old-fashioned fun, music and games.  
An amazing family experience

*Admission by Donation*

For further information contact Barb, Janine or Glenys at 780 672 3099

The *Canora Chronicle* is the quarterly newsletter of the Canadian Northern Society—a registered charity dedicated to providing community service through heritage tourism initiatives.

Canadian Northern Society, P.O. Box 1174, Camrose, AB T4V 1X2 / Ph: (780) 672-3099 / Email: [canadiannorthern@telus.net](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.net)

Editors: Dean and Lorrie Tiegs / Ph: 780 484 4038 / Email: [secretary@canadiannorthern.ca](mailto:secretary@canadiannorthern.ca); Contributor: Shawn Smith

Design and Layout by Whale Tail Graphics • (780) 484-4038 • [www.whaletailgraphics.ca](http://www.whaletailgraphics.ca)