



# the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

## 2011 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!

Please send your membership to:  
Canadian Northern Society  
Box 1174, Camrose, AB T4V 1X2

Associate memberships are \$10  
Full voting memberships are \$20

*Thank you for your support.*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting and election of officers will be held at the Camrose Station on April 17, 2011, at 2:00 p.m.

Deadline for nominations will be April 15, 2011, for the positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and four director positions. Nominations can be e-mailed to Dean Tiegs at [secretary@canadiannorthern.ca](mailto:secretary@canadiannorthern.ca).

## ORDER OF CANADA APPOINTMENT

On December 30, 2010, the Governor General of Canada announced 54 new appointments to the Order of Canada. Gwyn Morgan of North Saanich, BC, is among those new appointments. Gwyn has been a long-time generous supporter and member of the society.

The Order of Canada is one of our country's highest civilian honours. It was established in 1967, during Canada's centennial year, to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to community and service to the nation.

The society wishes to congratulate Mr. Morgan on this honour and achievement!

## Acknowledgements

Allan R. Johnston of Big Valley writes: "Howdy folks, Please find enclosed a cheque for memberships for Florence and myself, plus a small donation—I've just been reviewing my file of back issues of the *Canora Chronicle*—great reading!!! Keep up the good work. Every best wish for a healthy 2011."

*Thank you Allan for your kind words and your generous donation. Sincere thanks also to Carl and Natalie Leaman of Westport, CT, Tim and Nancy Mugford of Lethbridge, AB, Gerry Piro of Camrose, AB, and Dean and Lorrie Tiegs of Edmonton, AB, Les Kozma of Edmonton, AB, Ray Taylor of Bashaw, AB, Kurt and Elizabeth Bagden of Camrose, AB, and Clayton F. Jones of Surrey, BC, for their cash donations received with their annual membership renewals.*

Charles W. Bohi of White River Jct. has provided additional photographs for the society archives, this time a full CD of photographs of CPR depots across Canada, and some excellent archival photos of grain elevators across western Canada. *Thanks to Chuck and Lynette for their continued support.*

The Canadian Northern Society received an email in February from Mr. Albert Baird. Mr. Baird spends his summers in Niagara Falls, ON, and his winters in Brazil. He has spent 40 years compiling a locomotive history and the beginnings of a CNoR passenger/freight car roster. He has plans to publish a book; however, in the meantime he has sent the society several documents he has compiled to view. If any of our members are interested in looking through Mr. Baird's work, please contact Janine at [canadiannorthern@telus.net](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.net) or [secretary@canadiannorthern.ca](mailto:secretary@canadiannorthern.ca) and the files will be emailed to you. *The society thanks Mr. Baird for his time and efforts in preparing this material and sharing it with the Canadian Northern Society. In the future, if Mr. Baird develops a website, we will have a link from our site to his.*

January 20, 2011

Herewith is my 2011 membership renewal together with a support donation. The past three years we seem to be more out of the country than in it: this year I resolve to get back into these wonderful "stomping grounds" and pay a visit to the society's sites. Best Regards to all, Mike Western of Calgary, AB.

*Thank you Mike for your renewal and kind donation.*

## CAMROSE NEWS AND EVENTS

This off-season we are as busy as usual. Glenys has completely updated the policy and procedure manual in preparation for the reaffirmation process with Alberta Museums Association. I am glued to the computer (it seems) working on grants, marketing and other admin jobs. Barb, with a few grants picked up here and there is being kept busy. Bruce keeps very busy with the snow removal!

Our Kitchen Manager has changed: we say goodbye to Joanne Hildebrandt and hi to Joanne Kusalik. We first met Joanne and her husband when they approached us about accepting some Czechoslovakian artifacts. We organized a tribute to Czechoslovakian settlers and the Kusaliks helped us by preparing a cultural food experience.

***Our Station Café will be open every Saturday in July and August, plus June 25, featuring many delicious old-fashioned, homemade recipes and specialties.***

We had a wonderful Valentine's event, thanks to the many volunteers who helped make it a success. Joanne Hildebradt volunteered the day to cook up a magnificent meal, Dorothy Lysons make a delicious desert; several volunteers baked bread, decorated, served and cleaned. We appreciated the musical talents of Lyndee Olson and Nicholas Summers. The event is so much fun for the volunteers!

A group of talented volunteers got together in Glenys and Bruce's garage to paint garden fixtures. Be sure to visit our garden park this summer to see some of the extraordinary and unique artwork created — planters, a chair, tables. Thanks to Carol and Murray Roy, Carol Rawson, Dorothy Lysons, Hilda Saddleback, Bruce and Glenys Smith.

Barb and Janine pitched an idea to the Camrose County which will see a two-day driving tour in the county. Ten designated sites will be featured

and will be part of the tour—with highlight (of course) being our Meeting Creek Railway Station and Elevator. Date of the Prairie Fun Days is August 20 and 21. We are looking for help manning the Meeting Creek site—we will be offering tours and hopefully speeder car rides. Bruce and Glenys are away at that time—so if you can come down and help please let Barb or Janine know.

Our recent Storytelling Workshop was very successful, we are still looking for volunteers to help interpret during the summer months.

Saturday, May 21 - Opening Day  
10:00am - 5:00pm

***Join us for our season opening day on Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We have many updated exhibits including our newly completed Interpretive Speeder Shed. Our historical gardens will boast many spring flowers and are spectacular!***

The Camrose Railway Station will welcome a travelling exhibit for the month of June titled *Chop Suey on the Prairies: A Reflection of Chinese Restaurants in Alberta*. Our Dominion Day Celebration, Saturday, June 25, will include a tribute to Chinese settlers. Be sure to join us for this exciting event (there will be Chinese food!).

Upcoming annual Easter event, the Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Cross Bun Tea will be held on Saturday, April 16, 1:00 - 4:30. We will have our usual egg hunt (hopefully this year the Easter Bunny will not have to use snow banks for hiding spots), then decorating. It's truly amazing the number of people who come out to this—it's a busy day and a lot of fun.

Thanks to the following people:  
Dorothy Lysons: dessert ingredients and preparing the Valentine's desert, boiler and churn for Meeting Creek

Carol Roy: sewing pinafores, helping with baking

Gladys Douglas for scrapbooking our 2010 memories

Glenys Smith for a library book called *The Arrival*- immigration.

Bruce Smith has totally restored the velocipede from Meeting Creek and it looks great.

Debra Jessop for her work on finalizing the data basing in the library.

We also received some grants which we are extremely thankful for:

Camrose County: \$2500 towards Meeting Creek upkeep, \$1000 towards our school programs and \$2000 towards Prairie Fun Days

City of Camrose: \$19,200 staff grant

Battle River Community Foundation: \$500 towards school programs

Historical Resources: for upgrades and restoration for the Watchman's Shed and Tool Shed.

Cargill: \$1000 general operations  
Alberta Museums Association: Professional Development grant for Janine to attend a couple of learning opportunities.

The Canadian Northern Society welcomes new members: Gerry Piro, Kurt and Elizabeth Bagden, Wayne and Helen Lowther and Deb Jessop of Camrose. Thank you for your support.

*For a complete listing of the 2011 Camrose Station and Garden events please visit [canadiannorthern.ca](http://canadiannorthern.ca).*

- Janine Carroll

The Camrose Railway Station celebrates a centennial birthday in 2011! Historical calendars are for sale at just \$10 each. Limited supply! Funds raised will contribute to restoration and special projects at the Camrose Railway Station and Gardens.

Call the station at 780 672 3099 or email to [canadiannorthern@telus.net](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.net) to arrange getting your copy!

## BIG VALLEY EVENTS AND OPEN HOUSE

Alberta Prairie Railway's 2011 Excursion schedule is now out. The month of May will see the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of steam-powered excursion train operations begin on the old Canadian Northern Battle River Sub! Copies of this year's schedule that includes details of each excursion and pricing can be obtained by emailing [info@absteamtrain.com](mailto:info@absteamtrain.com) or calling 403 742 2811.

Thanks to Don Gillespie for providing the Alberta Prairie staff who recently completed a thorough cleaning of the Big Valley station basement. We needed to perform some emergency plumbing repairs as well recently given a pipe that had slid in the basement. Fortunately Kathy Evans caught this problem before any significant damage was caused.

The Village of Big Valley recently provided the Canadian Northern Society with a letter of support in respect to its continued activities at Big Valley. Thanks to Kathy Evans and S.I. Smith for organizing—this letter will help in upcoming funding applications that we have planned. The Village also confirmed that they would like the Canadian Northern Society to continue to support the preservation efforts at the roundhouse interpretive park which is owned by the Village, but has been maintained by the Village, together with support from our society and the volunteers from the Big Valley Historical Society for many years.

**BIG VALLEY STATION DAY—Saturday, June 4: All Canadian Northern Society members are encouraged to come to Big Valley on June 4.** Between 11:00 a.m. and the arrival of Alberta Prairie's first scheduled steam-powered trip of the 2011 season at 3:45 p.m., we will have an "Open House" with the station open, coffee and snacks will be served, and we plan to give tours of the site to those interested, review future projects, and enjoy the heritage atmosphere and gardens that the local Big Valley volunteers continue to maintain. Encourage your friends and neighbours to come.

Photo©C. Bohi



Quill Lake, SK, July 1973. CNoR 3rd Class Station.  
This station no longer exists.

## MEETING CREEK REPAIRS AND WORK BEE

Spring work is beginning to be planned at Meeting Creek. We need volunteers to help cut grass and maintain the grounds this spring and summer. Those who might wish to help with the many outstanding projects would be welcomed as well.

We are reviewing the best repair options for cracks that have begun to become pronounced in the exterior stucco of the station. In addition, we are considering purchasing a new storage shed—and then moving the material in the station coal shed out, allowing us to present the coal shed interior and the original painted exterior wall.

Graham Chillingworth is in the progress of rebuilding the final window required in the elevator office (engine room). We will then turn our attention to repairs of the doors on the driveway and elevator office.

Lastly, Don Gillespie is planning some painting work to brighten up the second floor interior in the station. The two bedrooms used for our displays, and the hallway will be repainted. We plan to contract with Alberta Prairie for this job.

**MEETING CREEK WORK BEE and PICNIC—Saturday, June 18: Everyone is welcome to join at Meeting Creek for a work bee on Saturday, June 18.** Beginning at any time after 10:00 a.m., join us for maintenance, painting, and a list of jobs that will be available. We will serve lunch and refreshments and have *Happy Hour* at the end of our day. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to lend a hand.



Happy new year to everyone at the Canadian Northern Society. Isn't this a great picture? Of course I think of all of you whenever there's a train involved. So this one comes to say thanks for all you do for the community-at-large for future generations, and all of us, many of whom know not how important is the work you all do. I am looking forward to helping out in some way on March 26 (Oiler's game fundraiser). See you then!

~ Donna Langille of Red Willow

*ON THE TRACKS*

acrylic, original mouthpainted by Ian D. Parker

## HUMBOLT, SASKATCHEWAN STATION NEWS

CN Rail has made some major changes to its buildings in Humboldt over the past few months, which has left the historic train station empty and unused, at least for now.

First, the old Humboldt bunkhouse was torn down, and another building put up in its place. Late last year, CN crews stopped using the old train station building, which had housed their offices for decades, and the City of Humboldt was invited in to assess the building, which is a national heritage site.

When questioned about these changes by the *Journal*, CN Rail would share generalities, but not details about why the changes were made.

Warren Chandler, a CN Public Affairs officer for the Prairies, who is based in Edmonton, had this to say about the buildings:

“The old Humboldt Bunkhouse had not been in use for over two years. The building needed significant repairs and so the decision was made to have the unused building taken down and replaced with a new office structure....

“The old bunkhouse was no longer required and had not been used in over two years. The new office building was built to better serve the different functions that CN requires....

“In the same location CN recently finished a new multi-functional office building which is used by on site CN employees and train crews who operate out of Humboldt.”

CN Rail has moved its operations in Humboldt into this new multi-functional office building, constructed where the old bunkhouse used to

stand, right next to the old train station on 5th Ave.

“The (old) train station building is no longer in use; however, it has been deemed a heritage site by the Federal Government.

“CN has no current plans for the (old) train station building that is no longer in use.”

However, the company is open, he added, to meeting with any local or provincial groups regarding the preservation of the station, should they make a request.

The City of Humboldt was more forthcoming about their possible involvement in the heritage train station in the future.

The City was offered the building before Christmas, noted Darrell Lessmeister, Director of Leisure Services with the City of Humboldt. A group of city employees and members of city council toured the building at that time and noted some concerns about its age and condition, both inside and out.

“We’re assessing it right now... to see the feasibilities and possibilities,” Lessmeister said of the building.

Complicating the possibilities for the train station are both its location and its condition.

As far as Lessmeister knows, the building has to stay in its current location, right next to an active rail line, according to the rules regarding national heritage sites.

“It can’t move,” he said. “That’s not an option at this point... So that limits what we can and cannot do.”

Whatever happens with the building, a fence or some other barrier will have to be installed between the building and the rail

line, for safety reasons, he added.

Add to that the “questionable” condition of the building, which was how Lessmeister described it, and it’s really unclear at this point how the city could use it, or what it would cost to get the building into better condition.

At the same time, it’s worth some effort studying, he indicated.

“It’s an important heritage site.... We’ve got to explore it and see what the options are, and assess the feasibility to it.”

Lessmeister is preparing a report which will be presented to city council when it is finished.

He has been looking at other places, he noted, and how they have used their historical train stations once the rail companies discontinued using them. Some have been turned into museums, and others in restaurants. But it’s usually municipalities that take on ownership from the rail companies, he revealed.

What the former stations are used for, he said, “has to do a lot with where they are located and the condition they are in.”

by Keri Dalman  
*Journal* editor

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*Humboldt station was the last Canadian Northern built depot in regular service for CN in Saskatchewan.*

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

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