



the

CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

Society welcomes new members

The society is pleased to welcome Gord and Joan Naslund of Camrose and Richard Graydon of Red Deer to our membership. Mr. Graydon has also spent time volunteering with our society and we sincerely appreciate this. Thank you both for your memberships.

Canadian Northern Society Planning Meeting will be held at the Camrose Railway Station on Saturday, October 22, at 4:00 pm—followed by a

Volunteer appreciation dinner.

All members are welcome! Bring nothing but your ideas and enthusiasm.

In Memoriam

The Canadian Northern Society was saddened in March of 2011 to learn of the passing of Harry Krasowski of Camrose at the age of 84. Harry was born in 1926 and found a love of railroading growing up near Calder Yard in Edmonton, leading to a student job in the Stores Department while still in high school. He began his career in station service following a stint as a clerk in the Superintendent's office and held telegraph operators jobs at Oyen, Hanna, Mannville, Ryley, Jarrow, and North Edmonton.

In 1948 Harry married Myrtle Anderson and lived in several railway stations—including at Meeting Creek as an agent in the 1960s where he and his family resided in the depot. Harry retired from his career as agent-operator in Camrose in 1982. Harry was a regular visitor to the Camrose Railway station in his retired years, often demonstrating the telegraph key to those interested. He also donated a number of items to the Canadian Northern Society including the wall-mounted ticket case now in the Big Valley station. We'll miss Harry's pleasant visits around the Camrose railway station.

4TH ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

**At the Meeting Creek
Railway Station & Elevator**

September 30 & October 1, 2011

Now an Alberta Arts Days Festival event!

Friday, September 30

Celebrate Aboriginal Culture
with dance, music and storytelling

Saturday, October 1

Station and Elevator Tours
Ernest Moorhouse Photograph Display
CPR Artifact Collection Display
Meeting Creek Centennial Display
All-Day Children's Pumpkin Festival!

Speeder Rides
Covered Wagon Rides

Concession

Featuring homemade pies, pumpkin cookies and more!

Admission by Donation

For more information contact Janine or Glenys at 780-672-3099

If you are interested in helping the society with projects in the upcoming months, please visit www.canadiannorthern.ca for a list of projects that need to be completed or call 780-672-3099 for more information. *Any help in preserving our sites is greatly appreciated!*

CAMROSE NEWS

The station is closed, but the flower beds are still gorgeous! Thanks to all those who helped with them; Bruce and Glenys Smith, who put an unbelievable number of hours in this year; Carol Roy and Robbie O'Riordan who participated in our "adopted a garden" program, Carol Rawson for weeks of watering, Dianne Weeres, Dorothy Lysons and Brian and his case worker from CDSS.

Our summer events were very successful and well attended. There are so many people who helped us during the Founders Days Festival weekend, it would be likely that I forget someone. The tent was busy all day, Morley Risky and his band were a huge draw again this year. The historical talks celebrating the centennial birthday of our Camrose Railway Station were well attended—thanks to Shawn Smith, Brent Cheek and Leslie Kosma for hosting those; the Station Café was a busy place, thanks to everyone who baked pies and who helped in the kitchen. Thanks also to everyone who manned the children's Olympic games and crafts.

Our Tribute to Pioneer Woman was once again well attended and very enjoyable. Presenters included Barb

McDonald, Glenys Smith, Thelma Flemming and Meagan Carroll, who presented a story about Barb Hutchinson. It was a wonderful afternoon of sharing and learning more about the huge contributions that ordinary women made during the time that our area was settled. We are looking for presenters for next year: if you are interested, please talk to Janine at 780-672-3099.

Thanks to our summer students, Penny Nelson and Meagan Carroll.

Thanks to Joe Bracken who made a generous donation on behalf of the Canadian Heartland Training Railway towards the Big Valley roof project.

Sincere thanks also to Carol Rawson for growing carrots and potatoes for the station this year.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 3, for our annual Cookie Walk. This is one of our major fundraisers for the year and a wonderful time of community! Our volunteers bake up a load of homemade and delicious cookies, buy a few or get your Christmas supply. Sit awhile in the beautifully decorated Station Café, join us for a beverage and fresh dessert; and wander through our wonderful Christmas white elephant sale (donations welcome).

~ Janine Carroll

SOCIETY INVESTS IN BIG VALLEY STATION MAINTENANCE WORK

Your Canadian Northern Society has made significant investments at Big Valley this summer to ensure the continued preservation of the heritage railway depot, which will be 100 years old next year.

Thanks to the availability of Don Gillespie's Alberta Prairie Railway staff, we were able to take advantage of completing work planned for next year (2012) this summer such as a complete exterior re-painting (with the exception of the stucco finish), storm window repairs, and roofing repairs. All work meets Alberta Historical Resources Foundation guidelines—where we have applied for funding to help off-set some of our costs.

One of our society's newest volunteers, Mr. Rich Graydon, was one of the key Alberta Prairie staff engaged in the project this summer. Thanks to Kathy Evans again for all

of her co-ordination efforts. We would also like to recognize all of the Big Valley-based individuals who volunteered for the society's casino in Red Deer in early August. Funds from this Casino are also counted on in financing this project.

Any contributions to the present Big Valley station work are tax-deductible and would be greatly appreciated. We would like to acknowledge a generous contribution from the Canadian Heartland Training Railway towards this project.

In related Big Valley news, we are considering an offer from a private individual for the former Central Western Railway wooden caboose. If we can find a suitable way to ensure its preservation, and further gain some value for the rest of our collection, we will consider de-accession of this item.

PRAIRIE FUN DAYS

From all reports, the first annual Camrose County Prairie Fun Days were a success. Approximately 50 visitors toured the Meeting Creek depot and Grain elevator. Thanks very much to S.I. Smith, Adam Smith, Karen Smith, and Janine Carroll for volunteering to have the site open to the public. The highlight of the weekend was a unannounced visit from a niece of Sir William Mackenzie, co-founder and President of the Canadian Northern Railway! We hope to develop a relationship with this individual and her family in the months to come, as they have expressed a keen interest in learning more about the heritage of the Canadian Northern—and were very impressed with what they saw preserved at Meeting Creek.

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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