



# the CANORA CHRONICLE

*"Capturing history – Building community"*

## 2012 MEMBERSHIPS ARE PAST DUE

Please send your membership dues to:

Canadian Northern Society  
Box 1174, Camrose, AB T4V 1X2

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

The society will no longer print membership cards, however any donations received with memberships will continue to receive tax deductible receipts.

*Thank you for your support.*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*The Canadian Northern Annual General Meeting will be held at 2 pm at the Camrose Station, April 21. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend.*

## MEETING CREEK WORK BEE

April 28, 10 a.m. at the Meeting Creek Station. We invite all to join us—we will be cleaning up the elevator, station, and park area. Lunch to follow. Whether you have just an hour or several hours, any help is appreciated and valued.



Canadian Northern Society celebrates 25 years in 2012.

Be part of the fun this year. See the coloured insert for a list of events or visit [www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca).

## Acknowledgements

***Sincere thanks and gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for donations:***

Battle River Community Foundation for a grant for school programs, County of Camrose for an operations grant, City of Camrose for an operations budget, Tourism Camrose for financial support with printing colour 2012 Camrose Event brochures, the Government of Alberta, Historical Recourses for a restoration grant and to Alberta Museums Association for an operation grant.

Thanks to Carl Leaman of Westpoint, CT, Clayton Jones of Surrey, BC, Ray Taylor of Bashaw, Donna Langille of Stettler, and Glenys and Bruce Smith of Camrose for donations received with their annual memberships.

Les Kosma of Edmonton, Dean and Lorrie Tiegs of Edmonton, Finn Didrichsen of Stettler, Gerry Piro of Camrose, Village of Big Valley and Janine Carroll of Camrose for their donations with membership renewals.

Also thanks to Michael Westren of Calgary and Ernest Shatz of Oliver, BC, for their generous cash donations.

Thank you to Dave and Rudy Hutchinson of New Norway for their memorial donations in 2011 and again in 2012 to Lyle Sheets and R. and M. Gregory in memorial to Roy Nixon.

An enormous warm welcome to our new volunteers at the Camrose Railway Station: Sandra McLay, Debbie Dickson, Olivia and Pat Mah.

***In honour of our 25th Anniversary we would like to mention and thank some long-time members for their support:***

### ***Current 25 year members:***

C.W. Bohi (founding member)  
Peter Didrichsen  
Lorene Bergstrom  
Norman F. Corness  
Bruce Smith (founding Director)  
Glenys Smith  
Leslie S. Kozma (founding Director)  
Dean Tiegs (founding Director)  
S.I. Smith (founding Director)  
G.F. Fowler (founding member)  
Thomas S. Ulph  
Helen Ambury (founding member)

### ***Current 20 year+ members:***

Harry R.J. Home  
Finn Didrichsen  
Walter Kittler  
Alberta Prairie Steam Tours Ltd.  
Don Gillespie (Life Member)  
James E. Lanigan  
Clayton Jones  
James E. Harte  
Lori Pratt  
IN MEMORIAM: Life Members Harry and Frances Stuber, and Founding Directors Isabel Anderson and Keith Ewart.

## CAMROSE NEWS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Barb McDonald and Sandra McLay we have launched our Youth Mentorship program. We have developed the program to promote volunteering by youth, who we hope with the proper orientation and projects will become valuable assets to the station and will in turn gain life skills they can use for future job references. Sandra, who has considerable experience in drama, will work with youth in the 'Centre Stage' program, where they will be part of the Interpretive program. Barb is also working on attaining adult volunteers. An article will soon appear in the paper.

The Kindergarten programs for May and June are full. Eleanor has been doing the booking this year and we are very grateful. We will need volunteers for this program as Eleanor's time will be focused on the Grade 4 programs. Thank you to Gladys Douglas, who is making the over 400 pieces for gingerbread needed for the preschool and Kindergarten programs. One of our biggest challenges is the hiring of students for the summer. Janine has applied for the grants that we require to hire.

The Station Café is again being called the Tea Room as we will be not serving lunch with the exception of two event Saturdays during the summer. Self-serve cookies, coffee and tea will be available during the week for visitors. We have been promoting the use of the King George Room for booked Victorian Teas. We will be serving homemade desserts and refreshments. We continue to take bookings that can be catered to by an outside caterer. The Lefse House has done a wonderful job for us.

On February 17, Janine and I met with the Minister of Culture and Verlyn Olson, our M.L.A., to introduce them to the society's wonderful sites and programs and discuss some of our challenges. It was a privilege to have them come.

There are many people who continue to help and support the society in many ways. Thank you to Carol Rawson, who helps with collections, Karen Smith, who databases new items that come into the library and archives, Carol Roy who fixed the children's costumes, Friends of the Station for their continued support with events and planning, thanks to Kurt Bagdan for backing up our files, to Bruce for stripping and waxing floors in the station. Also thank you to Eleanor White, who volunteers, promotes our programs and helps with the gift shop as well as events besides her paid role as teacher.

Bruce has been working all winter on refurbishing and rebuilding the model buildings for the Morgan Garden Railway. It has been 12 years since the track was laid and he has attained new track to lay in the spring. We thank Pat Trottier and Gwyn Morgan for funding the

Morgan Garden Railway yearly making it possible to purchase the rolling stock and keep up the Garden.

Thank you to Lorrie Tieg for revising and designing our school and station brochures for 2012 to look very professional. Lorrie has also developed a volunteer brochure and is currently updating and redesigning the station cookbook. The station cookbook will be available for sale this summer season with all proceeds going back into the station for upkeep and restoration projects.

One of our very special volunteers, Joanne Kuzlick has been very ill and we all wish her well. Flowers were sent to the hospital for her.

*~ Glenys Smith*

## FRIENDS OF THE STATION

The idea of forming a group to foster the vision and principles of the Camrose Railway Station was discussed at an afternoon coffee party at the home of Ann Reiten on September 8, 2009.



*September 8, 2009, left to right: Alma Falk, Ann Reiten, Dorothy Lysons, Carol Rawson, Robbie O'Riordan, Carol Roy, Glenys Smith and Gladys Douglas.*

Our first organizational meeting took place on January 13, 2010, at the station. Robbie O'Riordan assumed position of chairperson and Janine Carroll that of secretary.

From these initial beginnings the Friends of the Station has grown and developed and we are now in the process of becoming a registered society.

*~ Robbie O'Riordan*

The Canadian Northern website has gone through extensive updating and now contains information on volunteer opportunities, as well as school programs that are held at the Camrose station. Visit us at [www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca).

## DEPOT AT STURGIS, SASKATCHEWAN

We have been corresponding with the volunteer organization that is dedicated to the continuing preservation of the 1918 built Canadian Northern Railway depot at Sturgis, Saskatchewan. Sturgis is located in eastern Saskatchewan, north of Canora—on the line to Hudson Bay Jct. and The Pas. The depot is now used as a community museum, just adjacent to its original site along the railway. VIA's train service from Winnipeg to Hudson Bay makes a regular stop at Sturgis.

Lorraine Sept-Drayer, curator of the Sturgis station house museum has advised that the town of Sturgis recently agreed to back a project to repaint the exterior of the depot. We have provided some advice on appropriate colour schemes and how to treat the vintage but unique asbestos siding that was applied to the station exterior in 1939. The remainder of the funding for the painting is coming from a provincial capital projects grant with the Community Initiatives Fund of the Saskatchewan government. This is a fitting project as this year marks the centennial of the Town of Sturgis—and there is a large homecoming planned, of which the station will be a centrepiece. *The Canadian Northern Society wishes the Sturgis group the best of luck with its project.*

Did you know...it has been theorized that Sturgis was the “Homebrew Capital of Canada”! In fact, near the location of the Sturgis depot sits a little pocket of gravel, which once was the local gravel pit. Pit operator Ernie Royal was reputed to have kept a regular stream of ‘hooch’ flowing from the gravel yard, southward down the slope of the hill, and right directly into the awaiting CN cars on the nearby track. Of course, this was all destined for the infamous Bronfmann family who got their beginnings in Yorkton, where they owned a hotel or two.



*Canadian Northern Railway Third-Class depot at Sturgis, SK.  
July 1983, ©C. Bohi Photo*



*Donalda, AB, Canadian Northern Railway depot, 3rd class plan with elevators, view looking south, December 1980.*

©C. Bohi Photo

A look at the snow cover in 1980 shows a similar amount this year.



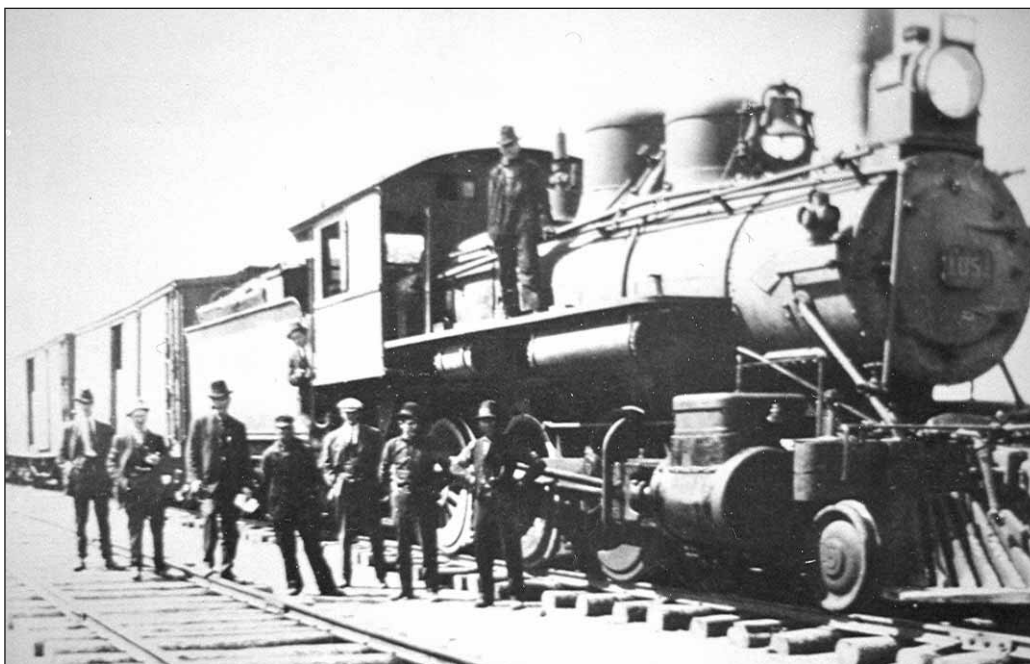
Robbie O'Riordan has been a valuable member of the Camrose Railway Station team for over 10 years. She has assisted with many station events and played a major organizational role in the Garden Tours and Victorian Teas. Robbie has committed many hours to running and organizing the White Elephant Gift Shop. She has developed a well-organized route around town during her many trips to post notices of upcoming events. She is always willing to lend a hand when there are extra jobs to be done (such as cleaning) and her delightful sense of humor brings joy to others and makes work light.

One of the biggest impacts that Robbie has made to our team is her inspiration and role in the development of the *Friends of the Station*. It is best stated in this quote by Margaret Mead. "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Our hats are off to you, Robbie. You are an inspiration to us all! *Volunteers plant the seeds that grow great communities. Thank you, Robbie, for sowing so much kindness.*

◀ Photo: Robbie displaying items in the White Elephant Gift Shop at the Camrose Station.

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN BIG VALLEY IN SEPTEMBER



According to company records, July 6, 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of the "official opening for service" of the Canadian Northern Railway's Battle River Subdivision from Vegreville to Drumheller.

The accompanying photograph which has been in the Big Valley Historical Society's collection for years shows what was reported to be "the first train into Big Valley." Note the unballasted tie section. No question, it has been 100 years this year since the rails were constructed into Big Valley, as this fall the village celebrates its centennial.

**Saturday, September 29, 2012:** The day will feature a celebration of community and railway heritage in Big Valley. Mark your calendars! Activities will include free train rides, a "big top" tent featuring entertainment including music, dance and drama; an old-fashioned community fair, a steak supper and fireworks.

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

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# 2012

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Camrose Station Events

#### **Saturday, March 31, 2012: Annual Hot Cross Bun Tea and Children's Easter Egg Hunt**

Bring your child or grandchild for an old-fashioned Easter experience in a 1911 railway station. This exciting event will take place at 1 p.m. commencing with an Easter egg hunt, followed by egg decorating and an Easter craft. Homemade refreshments will include homemade hot cross buns with cheese and delicious Easter cookies for the children.

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**

#### **Opening Day for the Museum and Park**

2012 Museum hours of operation: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Take part in short-time hands-on experiences - spend one hour or a full day. Meander through the 12 historic gardens at the Camrose Railway Station and relive the past as you take in the colour and fragrance of many heritage flowers. Ponder on this beauty while you enjoy your refreshments sitting in the shade on a trellis seat, the vine-covered gazebo or the tables on the station platform as you watch for the present-day train travel through. Bring a book and enjoy the peacefulness. Bring your grandchildren or children and give them an opportunity for old-fashioned play in the Children's Secret Garden playing on the large wooden train dressed in dress-up clothes or playing in the large sandbox. Let them watch Thomas the Tank Engine, Percy, James or other trains from the early era as they travel along the track along the route of the old Canadian Northern Railway complete with historical buildings built to scale. Children and adults of all ages are thrilled and fascinated by the Morgan Railway Garden.

Take a self- or interpretive-guided tour of the many historical displays in our station museum or the many buildings on site.

Throughout July and August our tea room will be open for desserts - homemade and delicious - on Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Self-serve refreshments can be purchased Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### **June 1-8, 2012: Plant sale and swap (except days we are closed)**

Purchase or swap some of the many plants that grow so abundantly within our station gardens. Also available will be house plants, gardening magazines, books and various gardening pots and yard decorations. Donations are gratefully accepted.

#### **Saturday, June 2, 2012: free workshop about "The Right Plant for the Right Exposure" and "How to Garden Naturally."**

Our own creative gardener Glenys Smith will lead these informative conversations, drawing upon her life-long experience of prairie gardening and decade plus of planning and caring for the station gardens. Workshop at 2 p.m.

#### **Monday, June 25, 2012: Celebrating First Nations**

As part of National Aboriginal Day, the Camrose Railway Station partners with the Camrose Arts Society to bring the community a wonderful celebration of First Nations featuring the exceptional dance group Running Thunder and an exquisite Native art show. There will be an opportunity to join in a traditional round dance.

**July 1, 2012: Closed**

#### **Saturday, July 14, 2012 Annual Garden Tour and High Tea**

Enjoy four community gardens and a Victorian tea in the historical railway station. Your servers will be dressed for the occasion in traditional black and white.

The day starts at 10 a.m., meeting at the railway station, with an organized driving tour of several private gardens in Camrose, finishing with a guided tour of the spectacular railway station historical garden park. High tea will be served in the Tea Room and King George Room following the tour. Preregistration is required please, cost is \$20 per person (includes Victorian tea).

#### **Saturday, August 4, 2012: Tribute to Pioneer Women of the Camrose District**

At 2 p.m. we will celebrate the contribution of women and their role in our area's settlement featuring four presenters. Learn through story and discussion the vast impact that women made upon the development of our region. Conversation will follow. Join into the theme; wear a hat or clothing from a past era. Homemade desserts will be featured with a berry theme.

#### **Saturday, August 11, 2012: Founders Day Festival at the Station**

Exciting events are hosted across the City of Camrose, celebrating the Founders and history of our community. See the Founders Days website for full schedule. Station events for children, adults, with story-tellers and an antique car show.

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**Saturday, August 25, 2012: Last day of the regular season. Bookings and appointments can be made in off-season.**

**Saturday, December 1, 2012: Annual Cookie Walk, Tea and Christmas White Elephant Sale**

Within our beautiful seasonally decorated Tea Room or King George Room, enjoy one of our major fundraisers for the year and experience a wonderful, warm time of community! Our volunteers cook up batch upon batch of cookies (including gluten free) and other festive baking including homemade Christmas carrot pudding and loaves. Buy a few or get your entire Christmas supply. Our volunteers make them homemade and delicious! Purchase special gifts and treasures in our Station White Elephant Gift Shop.

The scent of apple cider will greet you - purchase a beverage of your choice and enjoy a gingerbread cookie or fresh Christmas traditional dessert.

**Meeting Creek Events**

**October 6, 2010**

**Meeting Creek Harvest Festival**

Celebrate the gathering of the harvest with the Canadian Northern Society at the Meeting Creek Railway Station and Elevator. Children's activities include pumpkin carving and scarecrow stuffing. Diamond Jubilee theme related games and crafts. Enjoy music, live entertainment and tours - a great day of community.

The 2012 event will feature a royal flavour as we commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. On-site concession will feature an exquisite and traditional Victorian tea.

**Big Valley Events**

**Saturday, September 29, 2012**

**100th anniversary celebration for the Big Valley Station**

The day will feature a celebration of community and railway heritage in Big Valley. Mark your calendars! Activities will include free train rides, a "big top" tent featuring entertainment including music, dance and drama; an old-fashioned community fair full of fun family activities, a steak supper and fireworks.

**Volunteer Opportunities within the Society**

There are many volunteer opportunities available with the Canadian Northern Society including:

- General maintenance and groundskeeping - Big Valley
- General maintenance and groundskeeping - Meeting Creek
- General maintenance and gardening - Camrose
- "Train Day Volunteer" - Big Valley
- School Programs - Camrose
- Painting - Big Valley
- Painting - Meeting Creek
- Painting - Camrose
- Rail car management, painting, maintenance - Big Valley
- Meeting Creek depot preservation work
- Big Valley depot preservation work
- Big Valley roundhouse interpretive centre preservation work
- Camrose depot and other structures preservation
- Meeting Creek grain elevator preservation work
- Railway-themed events, planning and conducting
- General community events, planning and conducting
- Library and archives and artifacts management
- Being a member of the Society Board
- Safety Co-ordination
- Historical Research / Writing Society history publications
- Writing articles for the *Canora Chronicle* newsletter
- Photography
- Fundraising (letter writing, events, casinos)
- Being a member and supporter and/or board member
- Public Relations and Community liaison
- Maintaining and developing the interpretive signage at the Big Valley roundhouse
- Helping in the kitchen or hostessing at events during the summer in the Camrose Tea Room
- Preparing food or baking for Camrose station events such as the Cookie Walk and Tea, Easter Tea, Founders Day, Meeting Creek Harvest Fest
- Assisting with children's programming and events in the spring or during the summer - Camrose

For more details on specific tasks, please visit us at [www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)

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