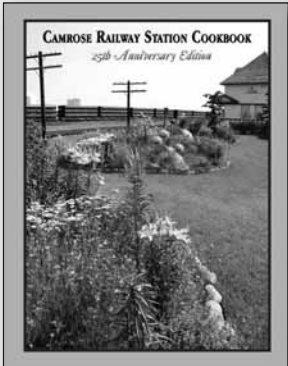




# the CANORA CHRONICLE

*"Capturing history – Building community"*



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*Canadian Northern  
Society celebrates  
25 years in 2012.*  
*Be part of the fun  
this year. Visit  
[www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)  
for more details.*

## *Acknowledgements*



*His Honour presenting Allan Johnston with the Caring Canadian Award.  
©S.J. Smith Photo*

Congratulations to Allan R. Johnston of Big Valley on being awarded by His Honour the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, a Caring Canadian Award at Government House in Edmonton on Tuesday, August 28. Allan was in attendance with his family, and was recognized with five other deserving Alberta volunteers by His Honour for his lifetime contribution to making the Village of Big Valley a better place—and in particular his role in creating and sustaining the Big Valley Historical Society over the years.

The Caring Canadian Award is awarded by the Governor General of Canada, and recognizes those people who for years have voluntarily and quietly provided extraordinary help or care to others, behind the scenes, without remuneration or major recognition. It was fitting given Allan (and Florence's) outstanding contribution to the community over many, many years, that he be awarded this honour.

***The Canadian Northern Society congratulates Mr. Allan Johnston on this achievement and thanks him for his outstanding commitment to his community.***

## CAMROSE STATION NEWS

The 2012 season at the Camrose Railway Station has been extremely successful!

We welcomed guests from across Alberta and the western provinces, eastern Canada, Northwest Territories and Yellowknife; as well as Singapore, England, Australia, Germany, Costa Rica, Norway, Northern Ireland and South Africa. U.S. visitors included families from Wyoming, California, Oregon, Kentucky, Georgia, Arizona and Texas. We welcomed several tour buses to our site and provided children's education school programs almost every day during the month of April, May and June as well as summer programs for local day camps. We had four weddings, several family events and a couple of product parties booked. We were very fortunate to have great weather for all our major celebrations and festivals and considered each one successful! Our Founders Day Firebox Family Festival was extremely well attended and enjoyed.

The station had a shift in priorities this year and we are very pleased with the results. In our Station Tea Room we discontinued serving Saturday meals and instead offered a menu of homemade traditional prairie desserts. Weekdays we had self-serve cookies and beverages available. This freed summer staff and volunteers to concentrate on greeting visitors and interpreting the Station museum and Garden Park. We felt a better connection and received great response.

The Camrose Railway Station is very appreciative for the many partnerships enjoyed with members of the community and organizations. We would like to recognize our local newspapers and media (*Camrose Booster*, *Camrose Canadian* and *Camrose Morning News*, *Country Connection*, CamFM and CFCW) for the comprehensive coverage given to our summer events. We are

thankful for the annual resources given by the City of Camrose, both financially and help with grass cutting.

Off season visitors and private bookings for meetings, retreats or parties are welcome, please call 780-672-3099 for information. We have excellent facilities for private functions.

The gardens have been particularly spectacular this growing season, and we didn't get hail this year! Flowers in the garden are just turning from summer to autumn blooms. On warm days the butterflies are plentiful, don't miss the wildflower garden. Grounds are open, please come visit and enjoy the tranquility of our stunning fall gardens.

We are breaking ground for the new Victory Garden! Located almost adjacent to where the original World War II Victory Gardens were positioned, this garden will contribute to the historical interpretation of our site. There has been considerable research completed on Victory Gardens as well as various other wartime gardens.

The large V-shaped garden will be used in the grade 4 'How Does Your Garden Grow, The Magic of Caring for our Planet' and the Organic Master Gardener course that is starting in January of 2013.

The Executive of the Camrose Railway Station Park have decided to withdraw our membership from the Alberta Museums Association. After many years of working within the guidelines of this organization, and spending the hours required to ensure that the Camrose Railway Station Park meets the AMA's "criteria" for a recognized museum, we have made the decision that the effort involved is simply not worth the benefit. The effort it takes to prepare the paperwork, and go through the process is in our view of questionable value, and despite our objective and respectful communication to the AMA on behalf of our

organization and on the part of other small museums, it is clear that our voices are not being heard. In this respect, we have decided to withdraw from this organization and not pursue "recognized museum" status.

While we may then in the future no longer be a recognized "museum" in the eyes of the AMA—we are reasonably sure that our membership and the community at large will continue to see value in the work that our volunteers and Managing Director do every day at Camrose and Meeting Creek, preserving the past, and maintaining our unique collection as our organization sees fit, and within the resources we have available to do so.

Should any member wish to learn more about this decision, please do not hesitate to contact Janine at 780-672-3099.

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Upcoming events include the station being open Thursdays in November and December (until December 20)—Trackside White Elephant Gift Shop Christmas shopping.

*Saturday, December 1 – 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. 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.

## DONATIONS & THANK YOU

- To Alberta Prairie Railway Excursions, Don Gillespie, Bob Willis and the Village of Big Valley; for their enormous, positive contribution to the organization of the Big Valley Station Centennial birthday.
- Travel Alberta – for contribution towards the marketing of our Big Valley Railway Station Centennial party.
- Les Kosma – for the large framed photo of the Dauphin Station “Manitoba Most Beautiful,” circa 1920.
- Darrell Kittler – for the handmade wooden engine crafted by his father, on display at the Big Valley Station.
- County of Camose – for the continued operations support of the school programs and Meeting Creek Station. And also for their partnership with the Prairie Fun Days which helps us promote the Meeting Creek Station.
- Woman of the Moose, David and Gail Stolee, and the Camrose

Rotary Club – for contributions towards the Victory Garden, now under construction. Also to Chris Clarkson at the City of Camrose for assisting with ground preparation and to Bruce Smith for his building expertise.

- Provincial government for allowing us continued partnership with STEP; and the federal government (Department of Heritage) for their continued partnership with the Canada Summer Jobs program, allowing our site the ability to engage excellent summer staff students every year!
- Summer students Kalista Sherban-iuk and Laura Falk for their wonderful contribution to the Camrose site.
- Mundel family – for two bird baths for the Camrose gardens.
- To the Camrose Founders Days Committee for supporting events at the Camrose Railway Station including Mirror Lake Express Train rides, children’s entertainer Mr. Rayz: Music for Kidz and marketing for our Firebox Family

Festival and Bailey Theatre dessert fundraiser.

- Camrose Chamber of Commerce for their donation as a result of the Mirror Lake train robbery.
- Centra Cam – for their help over the summer cleaning the station and in the garden.
- The Canadian Northern Society would also like to acknowledge and thank Peter Didrichsen for “more” Canadian Tire money for the Meeting Creek station, and to Paul Penner and Peter for their volunteer efforts at Meeting Creek this summer.
- To Canada Heritage for their the Diamond Jubilee Community Celebration grant. We have incorporated the theme into our Meeting Creek Harvest Festival and it will be a grand day (with even a visit from “the Queen”).
- Sincere thanks and gratitude to our many volunteers who help so much throughout the busy summer months! We couldn’t do all of this without you!

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# Organic Master Gardener Program

## Starting January 2013 ~ Camrose Railway Station

Organic agriculture generally means gardening without the use of chemicals, pesticides, and other substances that could contribute to soil, plant, human health or environmental concerns. Organic gardening embraces a more ecological paradigm in all its practices.

The Station will offer the Organic Master Gardener Program students a perfect opportunity to experience and experiment with organic growing methods. Through education and volunteer hours the participants will acquire an Organic Master Gardener certificate and will benefit from the sense of accomplishment in learning about organic horticulture and giving back to their community.

**For more information about this exciting learning opportunity or to register for the course, please contact Eleanor White at email: [white.eleanore@gmail.com](mailto:white.eleanore@gmail.com) or call 780-672-3099.**

*Camrose Railway Station Museum and Park partners with Gaia College of Victoria, B.C. to offer this program.*



# The Big Valley Railway Station turns 100!

And we're having a party

Saturday, September 29th, 2012



Train Rides | BBQ Dinner | Fireworks  
Gun Fight | Mechanical Bull | Contests

Non-stop entertainment  
Sentimental Journey | Jazz Guys Band  
Rosco the Singer-Comedian  
Can Can Dancers | Jump Rope demonstrations

## Fun for the Family!

3 foot Helium Balloons! (first 250 children under 10)  
Face painting | Story telling | Games | Magic show  
Plus: Caricature Artist  
Tours  
Wagon Rides

Advance wristbands are available  
at the Big Valley ATB,  
Alberta Prairie Excursions (Stettler),  
Camrose Railway Station

Challenge yourself, and your family and friends.  
Get a team together for the  
Orienteering - \$500 prize pool!  
Steam Locomotive #41 Pull - \$1000 prize pool!

All inclusive wristband:  
Adults - \$25.00  
Children 4 to 17 - \$15.00  
3 & Under n/c  
or single event pricing

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

Train departure times: 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Entertainment in the Big Top Tent:  
1:00 to 2:00 p.m. - Sentimental Journey  
2:00 to 5:00 p.m. - Mechanical bull riding  
5:00 to 6:00 p.m. - Jazz Guys  
7:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Rosco children's entertainment

On the Platform:  
12:45 to 1:00 p.m. - Can-can girls  
12:45 to 1:00 p.m. - Tap Dancers  
1:45 to 2:00 p.m. - Can-can girls  
1:45 to 2:00 p.m. - Tap Dancers  
4:00 to 4:20 p.m. - Jump Rope demonstration

Hot Dog Stand: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Helium Balloons (while supply lasts):  
Starting at 3:00 p.m.

Caricature Artist: 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Guns of the Golden West Show: 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Children Activities:  
1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Craft Table, Face painting  
2:00 p.m. Magic Show  
3:00 p.m. Storyteller

Children's Sand Pile Dig for cash: 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
A limited number of 3-to-10-year-old children at a time will have 10-minute intervals to dig for loonies and toonies plus \$5.00 cash prizes if they find a coloured coin.

Station Tours / Roundhouse Tours: 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Covered Wagon rides: 2:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Community Tours via tour wagon: 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Visits to Big Valley Attractions: 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Orienteering: 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Have papers turned in by end of steak BBQ

Steak BBQ: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
Featuring 8 oz. New York steak

Locomotive Pull: 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Entertainer/comedian/musician: 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Available to fill time between end of locomotive pull and start of fireworks

Fireworks: 9:30 p.m.

Big Valley Railway Station 100th Anniversary—you will see in this edition of the *Chronicle* references to the 100th anniversary celebration of the Big Valley Railway station, which was constructed by the Canadian Northern Railway in 1912, one hundred years ago this year!

Our readers should know that while the depot is 100 years old—the Village of Big Valley's official centennial year is, according to a recent letter from the Village office, to be celebrated in 2014. Congratulations to the citizens, volunteers, and community-at-large from Big Valley who have ensured through preservation that we have reached the century mark at the Big Valley depot, and who continue to work towards a brighter future within the community.

# MEETING CREEK HARVEST FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 6, 2012  
12 noon - 5 pm**

**Meeting Creek Railway Station and Elevator  
Meeting Creek, Alberta**

## FEATURING

- **Diamond Jubilee Tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II**
- **Aboriginal Dancers**
- **Young Ukrainian Dancer**
- **Sing-along to 1950s songs**
- **Children's Pumpkin Festival**
- **Royal-themed Games and Crafts**
- **Pumpkin Painting & Scarecrow Making**
- **Speeder Rides**
- **Covered Wagon Rides**
- **Station & Elevator Tours**

## CONCESSION

**Including homemade pies,  
British hot dogs, pumpkin cookies  
and Victorian tea trays.**

## ADMISSION BY DONATION

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



Canadian Heritage  
Patrimoine canadien

Canada



Photo © S.I. Smith

# Volunteer Corner

By Barb McDonald



Thank you Carol Rawson—"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart" is a quote that describes Carol Rawson.

Carol's diverse skills and talents allow her to volunteer in many areas; from typing recipes, cleaning and decorating the station to deadheading flowers.

Having taught school for many years, Carol slides easily into the role of teaching railway history in the Grade 4 and ECS programs. Her kind and caring nature is truly evident when she is surrounded by children.

Carol is a great cook and is always willing to participate in baking bees or preparing food for special events. She has a large garden that she weeds and hoes then shares what she grows. Carol and her husband Ted started out sharing excess vegetables with the railway kitchen and now routinely plant potatoes, carrots, beets, and pumpkins especially for the station. The Rawsons will be able to supply pumpkins this fall for Meeting Creek's fall festival. Sometimes when you stop by the station you'll find Carol in the kitchen preparing or preserving some of her home grown vegetables for use at upcoming events.

We can't mention all of Carol's accomplishments without acknowledging her right-hand man, Ted. Although Ted has usually helped with outside chores such as rototilling, watering and cleaning he has also been seen at the station door selling tickets or in the kitchen getting dishpan hands!

Carol has recently taken on additional tasks of managing the railway collections. She cares for textiles, artifacts and keeps track of new accessions. She has spent many hours hand stitching numbered cloth strips onto clothing and covering wooden coat hangers with acid free fabric.

Carol lives a very active life as a substitute teacher, gardener and outdoor enthusiast but always has time to lend a hand and be a friend. Yes, when Elizabeth Andrews said "*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart*", she must have ment Carol Rawson.

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Welcome to new volunteers: Linda Graham, M'Ria Schug, Valerie Sims, Florence Sommer and Loridonna O'Brien.

## BEAR CHECKS RAIL CARS — JASPER, JUNE 2012



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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