



# the CANORA CHRONICLE

*"Capturing history – Building community"*

## 2013 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 2pm at the Camrose Station, April 27. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend.*

## MEETING CREEK WORK BEE

June 1, 10am at the Meeting Creek Station. We invite all to join us—we will be cleaning up the elevator, station, and park area. Potluck lunch to follow. Whether you have just an hour or several hours, any help is appreciated and valued.

*Visit our website at*

[www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)



*Follow us on Facebook*

## *Acknowledgements*

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

- Battle River Community Foundation for a \$250 grant designated for the Victory Garden development.
- Alberta Prairie for two dinner tickets aboard their Stettler/Big Valley train to be used in our 2013 raffle (tickets on sale soon!).
- City of Camrose and Camrose County for continued annual support.
- Robbie O’Riordan - two beautiful Victorian cookie tins.
- CN crew for moving a push car to Bruce’s garage to build a train for our upcoming Train Days.
- Ed Kuzalik, for the donation of many Christmas and Easter items, many that were handmade by his late wife Joanne, one of our wonderful volunteers. Many we have kept and they will remind us of her creativity every Christmas as we decorate and enjoy her craftsmanship.
- The Camrose & District Thrift Shop for their donation of \$500 towards our 2013 Children’s Programs.
- A big thank you to Karen Smith for her computer skills in setting up the computers at the station for use by presenters and summer students. They can be used for society presentations out of or on-site.
- Les Kozma for all his help with the signal arm for Camrose.
- Tourism Camrose for printing colour brochures for the Camrose Station.

Thank You to Richard Graydon for his work at Big Valley station since discovering some of the ice damage on the streetside of the building. We are working towards fundraising to replace the wooden shingles on the station which should help prevent future problems. Thank you to Don Gillespie and to Janine Carroll for their advice and support on the emergency repairs, an application to Alberta Historical Resources Foundation respectively.

Thank you to the following individuals for generous cash donations received with their membership renewals: Gerry Piro of Camrose, Donna and Les Langille of Red Willow, Wolf Kirchmeir of Blind River, ON, Stan Eichhorn of Warden, Dean and Lorrie Tiegs of Edmonton, and Clayton and Ruth Jones of Surrey, BC. Thank you also to members Leslie S. Kozma of Edmonton, Ray Taylor of Bashaw, Carol and Ted Rawson of Camrose and Ernest Shatz of Oliver, BC for their donations. Thank you to Bruce and Glenys Smith for their recent cash donation to the society.

*To all our members and supporters who have continued their memberships for 2013 and/or generously donated to the society—THANK YOU!*

## CAMROSE NEWS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### ***Organic Master Gardener Course Update***

The Organic Master Gardener Course is well on its way. Participants have attended weekly classes since the beginning of January. They will be doing their practicum about the middle of April at the station. I will be setting up times with the participants to do their volunteer time in the gardens. Each person is required to contribute 10 hours of volunteer time. Eleanor White has done a marvellous job of facilitating this course and has attained her certificate. I have audited the course on-line, read the manual and have developed protocols to implement principles from the course. Michelle Danderfer will be helping in the gardens this summer and she will also receive her certificate by fall. She will be a great asset to the society.

### ***Upcoming Fundraiser - Mail Order Annie***

Practice has begun at the station for the production of *Mail Order Annie*, a play that will be presented by the society at a dessert theatre the Saturday evening of Founders Days (August 10). The dessert theatre was a very successful fundraiser for us last thanks to the financial and marketing assistance of the Founders Days Committee and Boomtown Trail. The play will be repeated on Sunday afternoon (without the dessert). Sandra McClay is directing the play and has seasoned performers assisting her—Peter LeBlanc from Church Mice Players; Lindsay Simms, who has her degree in drama; a high school student who is very involved in drama and Valerie Simms who has acted in About Time Productions performances.

Be sure to save the date and support our 2013 production; we will be needing assistance at the door and with serving the desserts (volunteers get to see the show for no charge). Tickets for the Dessert Theatre are just \$20 each and the Sunday show \$10 each. Both shows will be held at the Bailey Theatre in Camrose.

### ***Collection News***

I want to give a special thank you to Carol Rawson, our Collections Coordinator. She has come many Tuesdays throughout the winter. Our textiles are labelled and stored as they should be, plus all our paper archives are now preserved in Mylar. All of Ron Bailey's latest donations have been accessioned.

Anything received by the society undergoes proper accessorizing and labelling. We must always be sure we have name and addresses of people who drop items off at the station, and as well need to evaluate whether we will keep donated items in Camrose or send them to other places. We are ensuring now that any labels put on items are as small as possible and appropriate for the type of artifact. I updated the

procedure this winter. Proper labelling is important to reassure donating families that the recipient is accountable and items donated are properly preserved. We also note what type of care the specific artifact requires.

We are also upgrading and ensuring that interpretive signage is professional.

We have many up-to-date written administration and marketing resources from workshops and over the winter they were sorted into binders. Summer students will index the binders so they can be databased for easy access and use.

### ***New Event This Year at the Station - July 27 Train Day***

This was Carol Roy's brain child. Children will have to preregister with cost is \$8.00 per child. Our site can handle a maximum of 50 children from 10am-1pm and 50 children from 1pm-3pm. Bruce has spent many hours making a replica train that fits onto a push car (resembling Percy). It will be pushed by the large track car. Two children at a time can ride in the engine of the wooden "Percy." Bruce will be the conductor who drives the speeder and like all conductors will be the boss of the train. Sir Topham Hat, the superintendent, will be on site to ensure no confusion or delay. Thank you, Bruce, of an amazing job building the train. It is so creative. Don't miss coming out to see it. What a great photo op it will be for children standing beside this train.

The Morgan Garden Railway will feature Thomas, Percy, James, the troubled Trucks and our newest edition, Emily. Emily is truly a beautiful train. Mrs. Sir Topham Hat will, along with volunteers, tell train stories, sing train songs and play train games with the children. Each child will each have an opportunity to be decorated with a train tattoo, create a train craft (a souvenir of the day to take home) and take part in a train scavenger hunt. Clues will be provided and those who find all the trains will receive a small prize. Children will also be able to play in the Secret Garden.

Included in the \$8.00 cost is a beverage and Thomas cookie. Hot dogs will be available to be purchased.

Thank you, Carol, for the train day idea—what a great theme for an event at our station!

We will need volunteers to welcome guests, help with various stations, help in the kitchen and also on cash. We hope to involve many of our young volunteers but if you would like to help please contact the station.

For all events during the summer we are looking for volunteers to help us run the trains on the Garden Railway and for running the speeders. If you are interested in either of these please contact Glenys or Barb at the station.

~ Glenys Smith

## DON GILLESPIE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS MEDAL

I was honoured to be invited to join our Member of Parliament for Crowfoot Mr. Kevin Sorensen and the colleagues, friends, and family of Don Gillespie as he was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his outstanding community service in February. Don was nominated for this award by the Town of Stettler—a fitting tribute to a gentleman who has devoted so much time, talent, and energy to Stettler and surrounding area.

Don has gone about all of this quietly and without fanfare. He earned the respect of many as a businessman on Stettler's main street—and for the last 23 years—he has been a great railroader, having developed Alberta Prairie Railway into an outstanding tourist railway and more recently short-line freight carrier. The contribution of this operation to the communities of Stettler and Big Valley has been nothing short of huge. Always humble and gracious, Don accepted the award from MP Sorensen (pictured), assisted by His Worship Dick Richards, Mayor of Stettler, and Leona Thorogood, Stettler Councillor (also pictured).

Many of us have had the privilege of experiencing Don's generosity in the community—as well as learning from his wisdom, practical advice, and leadership. It is in this spirit that I share this note and photographs with many of you that know him, and wish him sincere congratulations.

~ Shawn Smith



*Don Gillespie receiving his Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.  
February 2013, ©S.I. Smith Photos*



On behalf of the Canadian Northern's Board of Directors I would like to thank the Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Culture, and the Province of Alberta for their continued support for our rural railway preservation. We received a Community Initiative Program grant, a generous amount of \$16,300 towards the expenses of the Big Valley Railway Station Centennial celebration which was held September 29, 2012. We are honoured that the Provincial Government continues to partner with our Society in order to ensure the continued preservation of rail and prairie history.

~ Lorrie Tiegs, Society President



**D**orothy Lysons dedicates her time and effort for a better community in many ways. Dorothy was the first person that Glenys Smith met after moving to Camrose 14 years ago. It would surprise no one that they met while volunteering at the city gardens and that they have been great friends ever since.

Dorothy's first volunteer experience at the Camrose Station was helping with the construction of the gazebo. She has planted and weeded in the gardens and served in the Tea Room. Dorothy continues to impress us with her ability to bake pies, bread, cookies, squares and desserts for station events. Each December she donates 20 dozen cookies to the Station Cookie Walk. Her flexibility and support don't end there. She cleans, decorates, helps with events and has spent many days operating the White Elephant Gift Shop.

At a vibrant 84 years of age Dorothy has many hobbies and interests. She enjoys travelling, sings in her church choir and volunteers with the annual music festival. Dorothy also has an exceptional talent for quilting. She creates about 40 quilts every year and donates them to world relief charities.

We salute Dorothy for her countless, generous efforts and the positive affect her work has on the Camrose Railway Station and our community.

## Q. Can February March?

**A. No, but April May!**

## LETTERS TO THE SOCIETY

Note from Member Mike Westren of Calgary:

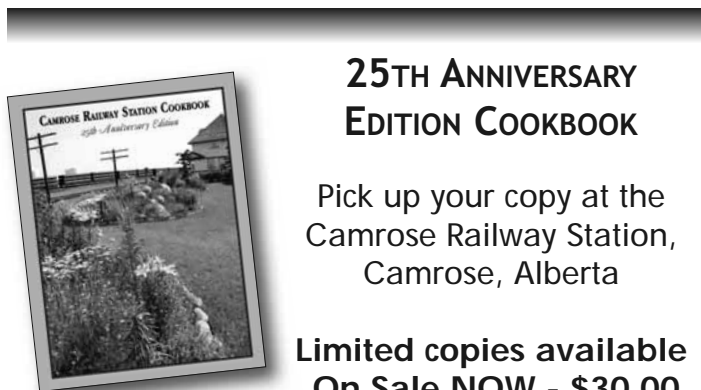
"It has been a while since we have been up making the Canadian Northern circuit, but nevertheless we are pleased to maintain our membership and support of this heritage project. Please find our dues and a donation towards continued efforts."

– Thank you Mike for your continued support!

From Allan and Florence Johnston of Big Valley:

"Thanks for the reminder letter for our memberships—I guess we all still miss Harry Stuber (reminding us to renew!). Keep up the great work."

– Thank you Allan and Florence for the membership renewal and the kind cash donation!



## 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION COOKBOOK

Pick up your copy at the  
Camrose Railway Station,  
Camrose, Alberta

**Limited copies available  
On Sale NOW - \$30.00**

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Cross Bun Tea

### Saturday, March 23, 2013

Pre-registration required: 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm sittings

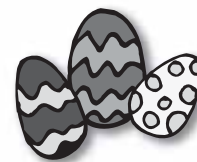
Camrose Railway Station & Park  
44 Street and 47 Avenue, Camrose, AB

- Easter egg hunt
- Egg decorating
- Easter crafts
- White Elephant Gift Shop Open
- Homemade refreshments

Cost: Children \$5.00 | Adults \$4.00

**Please call 780-672-3099 to Register!**

[www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)



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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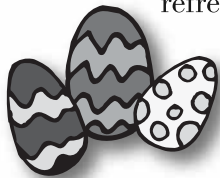
# 2013

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### Camrose Station Events

- **March 23, 2013 – Annual Hot Cross Bun Tea & Children's Easter Egg Hunt**

Bring your child or grandchild for an old-fashioned Easter experience in a 1911 Railway Station with an Easter Egg Hunt, egg decorating and Easter crafts. Homemade refreshments will be available. Please call 780-672-3099 to register for children's activities (there will be two sittings this year, 1pm and 2:30pm).



- **May 18, 2013 – Opening Day for the Station**

2013 Station hours of operation:

Tuesday through Saturday 10am – 5pm

Self-serve refreshments (homemade cookies and beverages) can be purchased Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm, throughout the season. Enjoy special desserts, homemade and delicious, on Saturdays throughout July and August from 10am – 5pm.



- **June 1 – June 7, 2013 – 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.



- **June 27, 2013 – Celebrating First Nations**

As part of National Aboriginal Day, The Camrose Railway Station partners with the Camrose Arts Society to bring the community a First Nations Celebration, featuring the exceptional Red Thunder – Next Generation dancers (will include a traditional Round Dance). Shows at 11am and 1pm.

- **July 1, 2013 – Closed HAPPY CANADA DAY!**

- **July 13, 2013 – Annual Garden Tour and Victorian Luncheon**

Enjoy several gardens throughout Camrose and area, and a delicious luncheon in the historical Railway Station. The day starts at 10am, meeting at the Railway Station, with an organized driving tour of several private gardens, finishing with a guided tour of the spectacular Railway Station historical garden park. A fabulous meal will be served in the Tea Room and King George Room following the tour. Preregistration is required please, cost is \$20.00/person (includes meal).



- **July 27, 2013 – Train Day**

Festival for children of all ages. We will be featuring Thomas trains and Thomas activities. Be sure to join us for this first very special Train Day at the station! Please call the station at 780-672-3099 to register.

- **August 3, 2013 – Tribute to Prairie Women**

At 2 pm we will celebrate the contribution and women's role in our area settlement featuring four presenters. Learn through story and discussion about 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 berry desserts will be featured.

- **August 10, 2013 – Founders Day Festival at the Camrose Station**

Exciting events are hosted across the City of Camrose, celebrating the Founders and history of our community. Station activities include the Children's Firebox Festival and free rides on the Mirror Lake Express.

Visit [www.camrosefoundersdays.com](http://www.camrosefoundersdays.com) for full schedule.

- **August 31, 2013 – Last Day of the regular season.**

Bookings and appointments can be made in off-season.

Phone: 780-672-3099

E-mail: [canadiannorthern@telus.net](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.net)

[www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)

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• **December 7, 2013 – Annual Cookie Walk, Tea & Christmas White Elephant Sale**

Within our beautiful seasonally decorated Tea Room or King George Room, enjoy one of our major fundraisers for the year. Our volunteers bake batches of cookies (including gluten free) and other festive baking including homemade Christmas carrot pudding and loaves. Purchase special gifts and treasures in our Station White Elephant Gift Shop. Gift shop will be open Fridays from November 15 to December 13.



**Meeting Creek Station & Elevator Event**



• **August 25, 2013 – Prairie Fun Days & Meeting Creek Station Centennial Festival**

Celebrate the 100th birthday of this majestic old CN Railway Station with the Canadian Northern Society at the Meeting Creek Railway Station and Elevator. Enjoy tours of the station and elevator, ride the Track Car, enjoy homemade pie, lefse cook-off and costumed interpreters. Children's activities include crafts and scarecrow stuffing.

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**For further information, to become a member or to volunteer please contact:**

**Canadian Northern Society  
Ph: 780-672-3099**

**Email: [canadiannorthern@telus.net](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.net)  
[www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)**

**Follow us on Facebook**

The Canadian Northern Society is a registered charity bringing history alive and building community. Donations of cash, material and artifacts are tax-creditable.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

- Being a society member and supporter
- Being a member of the Board
- Writing articles for the *Canora Chronicle* newsletter
- Historical research / writing society history publications
- Community liaison and public relations
- Corporate fund-raiser for society

**Bring your special skills and talents to Camrose, Big Valley or Meeting Creek to help with the following:**

- General maintenance, groundskeeping, and painting
- Track car maintenance and preservation
- Depot and structures preservation work
- Guided tours
- Driving track vehicles
- Photography of collections
- Fundraising (letter writing, events, casinos, other)
- Seasonal gardening and snow removal
- General cleaning
- Filing books and articles in our library
- Planting pots or garden, pruning
- Greenhouse cleaning, spring and fall
- Weeding and cleaning hummingbird feeders
- Redoing barriers around gardens
- Preparing food for station events
- Helping in the kitchen at station events
- Yearly cleaning of freezers, cupboards and stoves

**Camrose:**

- Coordinator positions for the Tea Room, Gift Shop, and Garden Tour Event. Volunteers also needed for the children's programs, library and archives management, planning and conducting railway-themed events throughout the summer.

**Meeting Creek:**

- Grain elevator preservation work, collections manager and grass mowing throughout the summer.

**Big Valley:**

- Rail car management assistance, roundhouse interpretive centre preservation work, general maintenance and security help, and repairs to track motor car.