



# the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

## THANK YOU

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

- Thank you to the Gwyn Morgan and Patricia Trottier Foundation for their annual cash donation towards the continued efforts of the Canadian Northern Society. This committed support is deeply appreciated and provides us with an excellent opportunity to continue to operate and maintain our sites, especially in the view of the recent news of Alberta cutting back the Community Spirit Program.
- Thank you to James E. Harte of McBride for his cash donation received with this year's membership renewal.
- Susan and Lee Penner for their new membership (welcome) and for the generous cash donation towards the reroofing of the Big Valley Station.
- Murray and Carrol Roy of Camrose for their generous cash donation.
- Welcome new members, Rob Walger of Winnipeg and Dale Schultz of Edmonton.
- Thank you to those individuals who helped out at the Big Valley clean-up day on May 11. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.
- Thank you to Shawn and Karen Smith and Dean Tiegs for their work with cleaning up the Meeting Creek site on June 1.

Visit our website at  
[www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)



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# CHILDREN'S TRAIN DAY

**When:** July 27, 2013

**Where:** Camrose Railway Station  
44 Street & 47 Avenue, Camrose, AB

**Time:** 10 am - 12:30 pm or 1 - 3:30 pm bookings

**Cost:** \$10 per child, includes lunch

**Register EARLY - Call 780-672-3099**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult**

- Ride the Percy-like train
- Crafts & face painting
- Scavenger hunt
- Stories, songs and dance
- Children's secret garden
- Photo op with Percy-like train
- **FREE hot dog lunch, drink & Thomas cookie with price of admission!**



MORE DETAILS AT  
[WWW.CANDIANNORTHERN.CA](http://WWW.CANDIANNORTHERN.CA)

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## CAMROSE NEWS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In one simple word, activity around the Camrose Station is *busy*. School programs started May 24 this year. Numbers comparison: last year 482 students and 88 adults visited the station and this year 570 students and 96 adults are expected. Additionally we have about eight summer day camp programs booked in July and August. Fortunately we have two exceptional students that make hosting this number of children seem effortless. Victoria Iverson and Rebecca Fleury will be working here for the summer. We were accepted for two federal program grants, one from Canada Summer Jobs and another from Young Canada Works! In addition to these hard working gals, it takes a multitude of dedicated volunteers to deliver these excellent programs—a big thank-you to everyone! Eleanor White was excellent with the booking details and communication—thanks to her as well!

The station collected over \$250 in plant sales and from the gift shop during our “Plant Sale and Swap” week. The station gardens are spectacular as usual! Glenys is happy to welcome 15 members of the Organic Master Gardener class (hosted here over the winter) into the gardens to work their volunteer hours. She is also very thankful for Michelle Danderfer, who is a huge help in the gardens right now.

Friends of the Station continues to meet and support the Camrose Station with events and school programs. Thanks to Barb McDonald and Carol Roy for keeping it organized and successful. Our next meeting will be Tues., Sept. 24, 9:30 am (9:15 for refreshments).

The display cases in the bunk house have been completed. Bill Walker did a marvellous job using the glass donated by Carol and Ted Rawson. Ron Bailey’s display has been completed, and we are in the process of doing a Commodity Display in the second one. It will display not only what products the railway distributed in the past, but also what commodities are shipped now. The third cabinet with the lanterns now has doors and a lock. We need to once again thank Bill for this project as he charges a very minimal amount for his labour, making the cost of the project very manageable for the society. We are going to install small battery LED lights inside the cabinets.

The Victory Garden fence is completed and the gate is being made. Bruce has measured out all the beds ready for the boxes to be made. The garden soil will then be made using a lasagne method. The garden will be ready to plant in the spring 2014. Janine is applying for a grant for a watering system for this garden and all the other garden beds. We would like to thank Rotary, the Battle River Community Foundation, Gail and David Stole for their financial contributions, Ted and Carol Rawson for their donation of wood for the

garden boxes. Thank you to Bruce who helped build the fence and will be working with a Gaia College volunteer to build the boxes. We will be developing the information to put on an interpretive sign this summer.

We are hosting several excellent events over the summer—please come join us:

- June 27 - Celebrating First Nations
- July 13 - Annual Garden Tour & Victorian Luncheon
- July 27 - Children’s Train Day
- August 3 - Tribute to Prairie Women
- August 10 - Founders Day Festival at the Station

***Thank you to the following Camrose and area residents and businesses for their donations:***

- Diana Nickel for the donation of earrings for costumes
- Carol and Murray Roy - barns for the Children’s Secret Garden
- Karsten Mundel and Deena Hinshaw - \$500 donation
- To those who took the Gaia Organic Master Gardener course for volunteering in the spring gardens. We were able to get the trees and dogwood trimmed
- To everyone who donated plants and white elephant gift shop items. We raised over \$200 in the plant sale
- Eleanor White for the tiered china dish which came from a friend in Wales
- To Rod Lindburg (Camrose) for the CN promotional picture of a totem pole in the Vancouver area
- Loyal Order of the Moose, Camrose - \$100 for school programs
- Ladies of the Moose No. 1375, Camrose - \$500 for school programs
- Camrose Family Thrift Shop, \$500 for school programs.
- Federal government—Canada Summer Jobs, student funding
- Canadian Heritage—Young Canada Works, student funding
- Province of Alberta and Minister Heather Klimchuk - Community Spirit Grant.
- Pat and Gwyn Morgan - for the electronic garden cart
- Dale Schutz \$50 donation
- Drever Agencies, Camrose



*Bruce Smith’s winter project was to create a Percy-like train, already an extremely popular attraction for children!*



Thanks to Rich Graydon, Kathy Evans and Alberta Prairie for their efforts in working on the Big Valley reroofing project. The roof was completed on the station this spring, with no help from Mother Nature.

Sincere thanks are due to the Royal Canadian Legion, Big Valley Branch for the generous cash donation of \$1000 towards the reshingling of the Big Valley depot. In addition, the society appreciates the generosity of the Big Valley Elks Club, who also donated \$500 towards the project. This community support is greatly appreciated.

The Canadian Northern Caboose which has sat next to the Big Valley Station for years was moved on May 20, 2013, to the farm of Ernie Beskowiney, near Eckville. The caboose has been donated to Mr. Beskowiney, who plans to undertake a full restoration and make it the centrepiece of his miniature railroad.

For more on this story and to see photos visit

[http://www.reddeeradvocate.com/news/Relic\\_caboose\\_gets\\_new\\_home\\_208213161.html](http://www.reddeeradvocate.com/news/Relic_caboose_gets_new_home_208213161.html)

Thank you to the following individuals who came out on May 11 to help with the Big Valley station clean up:

Kathy Evans, Dorothy and Marion Annable, Val Erickson, Phylis and Wayne Garrison, Florence Johnston, Earl Ortman, Ann Tizzard, Rich Graydon. From the Rocky Mountain Rail Society: Don Totten, Kevin Quigley, Leo DeGroot. Sue and Bob Boswell from the Big Valley Beautification Society came and cleaned the rock garden up and got the fountain working. Many hands made quick work of the clean-up and it was completed by 2:00 pm.

## MEETING CREEK CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY STATION TURNS 100 YEARS OLD

**PRAIRIE FUN DAYS & MEETING CREEK STATION CENTENNIAL**

**Sunday, August 25, 2013**  
10 am - 5 pm



**FEATURING**

- Station & Elevator Tours
- Track Car Rides
- Children's Crafts
- Scarecrow Making
- Covered Wagon Rides
- Enjoy homemade pie
- Costumed Interpreters
- Watch a Jingle Dance and take part in a Round Dance at 2 pm

**ADMISSION BY DONATION**

**JOIN THE FUN**  
Meeting Creek Railway Station and Elevator  
Meeting Creek, Alberta

 For more information  
phone 780-672-3099  
or visit our website at  
[www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)

In 1911, the Canadian Northern Railway opened a branch line known as the "Battle River Subdivision"—operating from its main line at Vegreville southwest through the growing towns of Camrose, Stettler, and Big Valley, and connecting the railway with the coal mines of Drumheller. Along the way, communities such as Meeting Creek sprung up, and the railway would provide a new link to the outside world.

The prairie railway station would become the centre of many small communities up until the advent of all-weather roads and improvements in transportation technology in the late 1950s. The Meeting Creek depot is a wonderfully-preserved example of the hundreds of such structures that served communities in western Canada during the first half of the last century. At 100-years old, this structure has witnessed and survived dramatic changes in the rural economy, technology, and trends.

The Meeting Creek depot is one of few heritage railway stations that remain in Alberta, and the last of its "class" that remains on its original site. This structure together with the nearby Alberta Pacific Grain Elevator is a Designated Provincial Historic Resource.

**Join the Centennial Celebrations on August 25!**

## VIKING AND IRMA DEPOT NEWS



Viking Station, 2009. ©S.I. Smith



Viking Station, 2013. ©S.I. Smith



Irma GTP Station, 1984. ©S.I. Smith

The Viking Station Gallery and Tea House will be open for summer hours from Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm with lunch served and Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm for brunch.

The Viking Station Gallery, housed in the 1909 Grand Trunk Pacific standard depot along CN's transcontinental main line—features some wonderful art—oils, acrylics, pen and ink, pencil, charcoal, and pastels. There is also wood carvings and stained glass for sale—with a unique feature being Norwegian rosemailing by local artists. Rosemailing refers to Norwegian decorative painting which flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries. You will see the same basic colour scheme on walls, ceilings, furniture, trunks, bowls, etc., in homes and churches across Norway. The last century has seen a revival of rosemailing with colour variations to blend with Canadian and American homes.

The Canadian Northern Society continues to assist the station gallery as we can—thanks to S.I. Smith and Liam and Adam Smith for their recent volunteer efforts in pruning the maple tree on the west end of the depot, cleaning up the grounds around the depot, and making the repairs to the Via platform.

– Shawn Smith & Earl Kindley

The Village of Irma has evidently purchased the old Irma GTP depot that has sat on a farm east of town for now over 35 years, and it is to be brought back into the community for preservation. If true, hopefully they will preserve it tastefully. Attached a shot from way back in 1984 on that farm. I can't believe I have not been back to get another view since but my recollection of that farm yard was pretty grim—had to be over 50 dogs came running out at my car and I started to fear for my life given the surroundings—so it was “shoot” and run back in '84.... Seems to me Ray Matthews has some nice shots from the '50s at Irma in one of the CN books of work trains out in front of the station.

– Shawn Smith

### “MAIL ORDER ANNIE”



Cast members: Left to right - Val Sims, Peter La Blanc, Maeve Marentette, Lindsay Aiken.

Please join us for the Camrose Heritage Railway Station production of “Mail Order Annie” on Saturday, August 10, 2013, at 7 pm. Dessert Theatre at the Bailey Theatre.

Our play is dedicated to the thousands of mail order brides who braved the journey to Canada's great western prairies between 1905 and 1925 - to meet and marry complete strangers. Some came in search of adventure and romance; others sought a simple home and family. Whatever the reason, these brave women helped shape the future of a nation.

Tickets are just \$20 each, available at the Railway Station, Chamber of Commerce Visitors Centre, Bailey Theatre or call 780-672-3099.

Two delicious, decadent desserts will accompany the theatre show between acts, catered by the Lefse House.

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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