



the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

Annual Cookie Walk, Tea & Christmas White Elephant Sale

Saturday,
December 7, 2013

Large variety of cookies available
for sale, including gluten free

Christmas carrot pudding
and loaves

Special gifts and treasures in the
Station White Elephant Gift Shop

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

The White Elephant Gift Shop will be open for the Christmas season every Friday in November until December 6. Stop by and find something truly unique and memorable for your friends and loved ones. Also still available is the Camrose Railway Station 25th Anniversary Cookbook. Copies available for \$30.

Visit our website at
www.canadiannorthern.ca



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Celebration and Gratitude

for the Life of Murray Roy



A dear friend, member and volunteer extraordinaire passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 4. Murray and his wife Carol have been volunteers at the Camrose Heritage Railway Station for 14 years. Murray's gifts included fabrication, designing and wood working. Among the things that he contributed are as follows:

- Designed, building and painting of the gazebo.
- Used his expertise to direct and assist with the restoration of the Bunk House and Watchman's Shed.
- Building of the new platform.
- Designed and directed as well as assisted with the building of the new kitchen addition.
- Developed the character of François Adam after research, followed by playing the role for station audiences. Murray loved history and passed his knowledge on to others.
- Assistance with many events including yearly barbecuing for the Battle River Community Foundation, (see photo).

- Building of various structures for sale and use on the site, such as elevator trellises and birdhouse planters.
- Building and installing the platform for the Percy-like Train.
- Design and assistance with building the Sparling Centre and the greenhouse.

When one thinks of Murray as a contributing member I believe the most important contribution was Murray's desire to build this station into a living community centre where people did what they did for the right reasons. He totally bought into the mission of promoting intergenerational understanding and making it a place where people were welcomed and could experience an earlier time in a peaceful environment.

He was an advocate of the society and a voice of wisdom, bringing joy to all who knew him through his wonderful sense of humour. We will truly miss him, but we truly believe Murray will always be here in the legacy he has left behind.

In honour of Murray's outstanding commitment of time and resources to the Canadian Northern Society and the Camrose Heritage Railway Station, a Victory Garden Gate memorial sign will be placed at the entrance to the Victory Garden at the Camrose Station.

~ Glenys Smith

CAMROSE NEWS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The station has had another amazing summer and we would like to thank those who made it possible.

- Barb McDonald who contacted and arranged volunteers for events and activities during the summer.
- The cast and Directors of *Mail Order Annie* who gave many hours of volunteer time to put on this excellent play highly praised by the public who saw it. Those who helped take tickets and Janine for sale of tickets and keeping track of all the details ahead of time.
- Faithful community people, who continue to advocate and attend our events, enjoy the gardens, the Morgan Garden Railway and the heritage gardens. We have again had an increase in tourists especially during the weekdays.
- The Friends of the Station, who clean, help with garden work, baking, sewing, tea room hostessing, decorating and events.
- The CenterCam team who cleaned Thursdays during July and August.
- Student volunteers who helped during events and tea room opening.
- Our hired university students, Rebecca and Victoria who ably took informative tours and carried out a multitude of tasks with competency.
- Bruce Smith who ran the Garden Railway trains, the Percy-like train, assisted in the completion of the Victory Garden and outside and inside maintenance work. He also gave informative tours to many visitors.
- Carol Roy, who adopted a south garden bed, sewed a new covering for the trellis seat and painted the planter wheel barrow.
- Duane and Morley Riske for numerous donations including a early seeder and tools, a picture of Morley's father, many gift shop items.
- All who helped at Meeting Creek during the Prairie Fun Days (Station's 100 Anniversary) with a special thank you to Loreen Bergstrom, Barb MacDonald (who built *The Old Woman in The Shoe* bale art and organized the whole affair for the county) Gladys and Bill Douglas, Julie Siemens, Donna Langelles, Robbie O'Riordan, Cheryl and Norm Prestage, Bruce Smith, Shawn and Karen Smith and Jim Long with his covered wagon from Alberta Prairie. It was a great success.
- Those who helped during 'Train Days.' 100 adults and children attended, enjoying rides on the Percy-like train with Conductor Bruce, time with Engineer Dean, Thomas and Friends in the Morgan Garden Railway, riding and talking to the supervisor of the railway Sir Topham Hatt (Joe Hartunge) and stories, dancing and singing with Lady Hatt. They also took part in a scavenger hunt, parachute games and crafts

with volunteers Barb, Lindsey, Yaya, Val and Lindsey. Hot dogs were prepared and served by members of the Friends of the Station—Dorothy Lysons, Anne Goddard, Ed Kuzalik and Shirley Lowen.

- Victorian Tea and garden tour organizers, Janine and Robbie. All those who helped with food preparation, decorating, clean-up and hostessing. The event was sold out with a waiting list.
- Michelle Danderfer who prepared and took people on the station tour with the focus on organic mulching.
- The Founders Day committee and the funding given to pay for the Mirror Lake Train, funding for an honorarium for the band, and help with expenses for the Bailey Theater. Thank you to all volunteers who helped in any way with this event. It was a fundraiser for the society this year.
- Eleanor White who made possible the help from volunteers through the Organic Master Garden Program and who does many volunteer tasks behind the scenes. Also her help with the Founders Days White Elephant sale.
- Carol and Ted Rawson for growing carrots and potatoes for the station. Carol for assisting with preparation for the freezer. Leroy Johnson for donation of apples. Robbie, Cheryl and Gladys Kupka for peeling of apples. All those who donated rhubarb.
- The station gift shop has been moved to a larger area in the station now, which replaces the meeting room. The old gift shop location will be dedicated to interpretation of the steam-lines operated by the railways. Thank you to Shawn and Karen Smith for the idea of moving the meeting room upstairs and the new location of the gift shop, with moving furniture and helping setup. Donations to the gift shop are welcome.

Barb McDonald who has been the Volunteer Coordinator is stepping down. She will still be volunteering at the station; however, Karen Smith will now be filling her position plus the Administrative role for Operations. We are looking at what we can comfortably sustain within our human and fiscal resources to prevent burn-out. Offering children's camps in the summer puts a great strain on the station as hired students are not able to help with outdoor work and concentrate on meeting the goal of ensuring that interpretation of the station story and mission are met. The school programs are intense in May and June and we fill our community obligation to children through these programs on an on-going basis through the Children's Garden and inclusion in other events.

We will soon be setting dates for yearly station cleaning and Christmas decorating of the station. We welcome anyone who can help with these tasks. Please visit the website for more details.

~ Glenys Smith



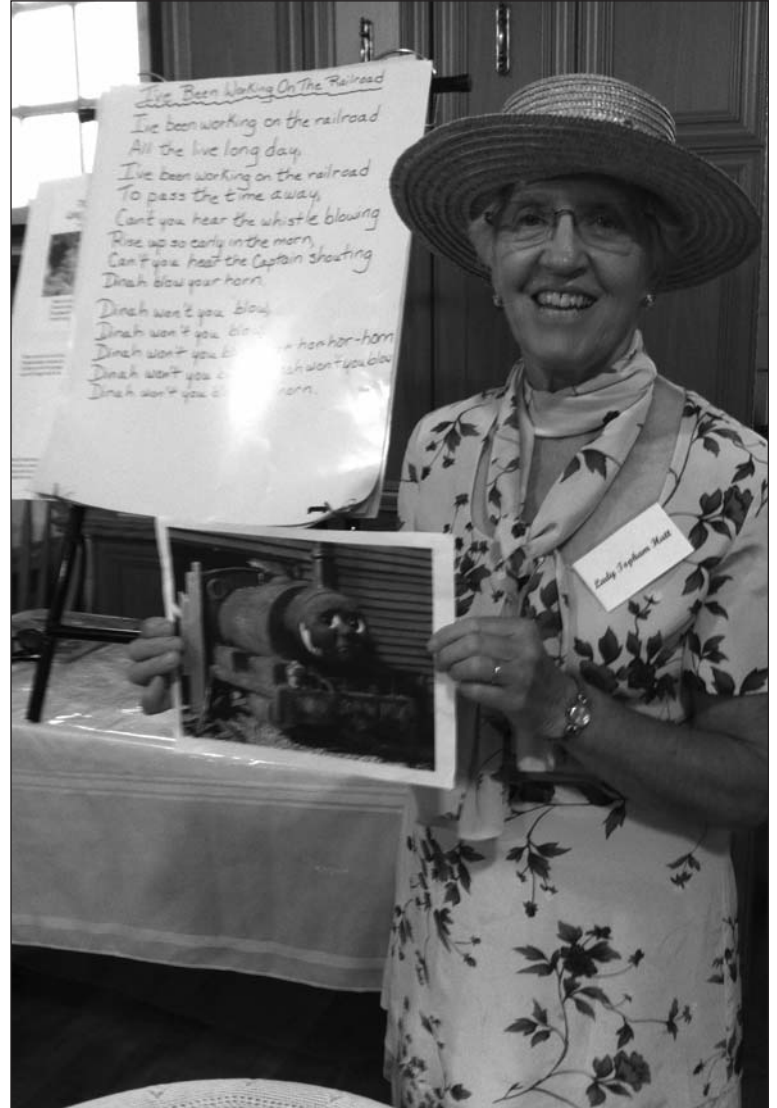
▲ Above: Old “Number 16” stands ready for the children to take a ride at the Camrose Railway Station train day in late July. This event was well-attended by many from all over the Camrose area and Capital region.



► Right: Dean Tiegs, Society Secretary, returns to his roots as Conductor for “Train Day.” Thanks to Dean and all of the volunteers who helped make the day a success.



Sir Topham Hatt, Joe Hartunge, helps a passenger off the Percy-like train during Train Day in Camrose.



Glenys Smith in character for a children’s event this summer at the Camrose Station.



Dorothy Lysons and Cheryl Prestage, volunteers for Train Day, climb aboard the Percy-like train for a ride.

MEETING CREEK SUMMER REVIEW

As part of Prairie Fun Days, the Canadian Northern Society celebrated the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Meeting Creek depot on Sunday, August 25. The event allowed the society to have an “open house” of its continuing preservation efforts at Meeting Creek—now 26 years and running—and share our historic sites and efforts with the community and general public. Children’s activities such as face painting and scarecrow making were also well received. The event was well attended by many, and thanks are due to the volunteers—including Lorene Bergstrom of Meeting Creek who helped clean the station and the grain elevator, Bruce Smith and Brent Cheek who operated the track motor car, Norm Prestage who gave tours of the elevator, and Shawn Smith, Adam Smith, and Glenys Smith who looked after the station tours. We also thank Donna Langille, Bill and Gladys Douglas, Cheryl Prestage for their help selling pies and refreshments and to Janine Carroll and Barb Macdonald for their assistance in organizing the entire event. In addition, thanks to Jim Long for the excellent covered wagon ride experience.

In late August, thanks to the support of volunteers Kerry Brager, Shawn, Liam, and Adam Smith, and Brent Cheek, along with a contractor from Camrose we were able to replace the trackside station platform at Meeting Creek. This was done in advance of the 100th anniversary celebration. In addition, we must thank again Don Gillespie and his Alberta Prairie crew, including Rich Graydon of the Canadian Northern Society for the assistance that they provided in cutting weeds, brush, and spraying our railway right-of-way at Meeting Creek. The results look excellent and

allowed us to operate the motor car for the many visitors on August 25. We sincerely appreciate Don’s continued assistance and commitment in preserving our Meeting Creek heritage site.

Thank you to Kerry Brager, Shawn, Karen, Liam and Adam Smith for the assistance with Meeting Creek grounds-keeping again this summer. Thank you to Lorene Bergstrom and to Karen Smith for the flowers at the station.



Meeting Creek depot’s 100th birthday was part of this year’s Camrose County “Prairie Fun Days.” The newly rebuilt platform, and Brent Cheek’s ex-CN and Central Western Railway track motor car were part of the celebration. Thanks to Brent, Bruce Smith, and all of the volunteers.



Children enjoy covered wagon rides at the Meeting Creek Prairie Fun Day.

Right: Bale art displayed in front of Meeting Creek Historic Elevator during Prairie Fun Days.



Volunteers, Cheryl Prestage and Gladys Douglas, help serve pies.



Bruce Smith with Adam Smith give speeder car rides in Meeting Creek.

CANADIAN NORTHERN CABOOSE UPDATE

I would like to specifically recognize the town of Big Valley for caring for the caboose all these years. Also I wanted to thank Rich Graydon and Shawn Smith for making it possible to move the caboose. Thank you to the Canadian Northern Society for the preservation of the caboose and allowing the contribution to my farm at Benalto, AB. I am developing a private display with a goal to facilitate fund-raising for the children's hospitals in the province. I am very grateful to Don Gillespie as he was responsible for finding the cranes to do the move. I was unable to find any all last year that were available.

I have not started the actual restoration yet however the lumber for the siding and the floor has been secured and the planer blades for the profile of the siding material are being made. The lumber should be dry for planing this winter when the humidity is at its lowest.

I got crazy busy this spring and summer so no track work has taken place; however, I did plant over 3000 trees as I'm starting with land that had barley and canola on it last year. So far it's been a challenge to keep up with weed control.

Late August, Rich Graydon and I went to Meeting Creek to move the speeder to my farm. Again I am very grateful to Shawn Smith and Rich Graydon for arranging the donation from the Canadian Northern Society. The kids will have a ball with that during the events.

The scale 6060 will be in steam hopefully by next spring.

Again thank you to all!

~ Ernie Beskowiney



The caboose in its new location with the mountains in the background.





Time is life's most precious gift, and Anne Reiten shares this gift generously with others. Anne first started volunteering at the Camrose Railway Station as the "Dutch Chef" for one of the themed lunches. She enjoyed it so much that she has continued to volunteer for many years in many different ways. Some of her volunteer duties have included baking, selling pies, serving tea, helping in the kitchen and at events. Anne particularly enjoys assisting with the school programs and helping the children to prepare their lunch meal with fresh ingredients. Anne raises a variety of exotic chickens on her farm just west of Camrose and has on many occasions supplied the Railway Station with farm-fresh eggs for baking.

Beyond the station Anne continues to serve her community in numerous ways. She belongs to a ladies church group that provide lunches when needed and also volunteers her time helping the local police. She was previously involved with the scouting movement for over 16 years. Anne enjoys the camaraderie that comes with volunteering. She commented that volunteering at the station is such a positive experience and appreciates that it is largely due to Glenys's leadership and organizational skills, stating, "You're tired at the end of the day but it's a good tired."

Thank you Anne for making our world a better place!

Help one another; there's no time like the present and no present like the time. ~James Durst

Welcome aboard to our newest volunteers: Janet Enns, Sandra Johnston, Elaine Lundberg, Tamara Toews, Annette Sarginson, Julia Siemens, Anindita Prodana Suteja, Yaya Schafer, Dakota Jylha, Annika and Sasha Schneider. Thanks to all of you who helped with the many events this summer. Also a big thank you to the younger volunteers who served in the Tea Room on Saturday afternoons: M'Ria Shrug, Olivia Mah, Yaya Schafer, Haley Clarke, Taytem Syrnyk, Annika and Sasha Schneider and Dakota Jylha.

BIG VALLEY NEWS

Late August saw the Big Valley station experience some issues with honey bees which have taken up residence for some years now on the top of the classic brick chimney. Thanks to Kathy Evans, Rich Graydon, and the Alberta Prairie folks for helping resolve the issue. The Canadian Northern Society and Village of Big Valley are fortunate to have its local volunteers who continue to maintain and operate the station, and who greet the Alberta Prairie excursion passengers on a regular basis. Alberta Prairie reports that it has been a successful summer season for its excursion trains to Big Valley, and the station and roundhouse continue to be a part of this service. Together with the Village of Big Valley, the Canadian Northern Society has initiated a representative from Alberta Historical Resources Foundation to once again look at the

condition of the roundhouse walls, in order to develop some potential repair or stabilization solutions accordingly.

There are several odd jobs around the Big Valley station that need to be completed—a basement clean up, repairs to the roof of the storage shed, and display work. If you can help please contact Rich Graydon at richndar@shaw.ca.

Through connections with CN and Mr. Mark Hemmes of Quorum Consulting in Edmonton, the Canadian Northern Society was provided with several personal momentos, files, and photographs that were the property of the late Mr. R.A. (Ross) Walker, who was Senior Vice President for CN—Western Canada for many years. A member of the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame, Mr. Walker was an excellent railroader who oversaw a period of tremendous

change in western Canadian rail-roading. His vision and determination ensured that CN was well-prepared to meet the demands of increased coal, grain, and other freight rail traffic that has developed over the past 30 years. We have placed several of these personal items on display at the Camrose and Big Valley stations—and we appreciate the donation by Mr. Walker's family. Thanks to S.I. Smith and Mark Hemmes for co-ordinating this donation accordingly.

Summer 2014 will mark 100 years of incorporation for the Village of Big Valley. The Village will be celebrating this momentous occasion on August 1 to 3, 2014. Stay tuned for event updates in the Big Valley *Whistle* and the *Chronicle*.

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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