



the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

Annual Cookie Walk, Tea & Christmas White Elephant Sale

**Saturday,
December 7, 2013**
1:00 to 4:30 pm

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

*There is no time more
fitting to say Thank You to
all our members, volunteers,
and supporters and to wish
you all a Happy Holiday
Season and a New Year of
health, happiness and
prosperity.*

~ Lorrie Tieg
Society President

Memberships Due

Memberships are due in January 2014. Membership in the Canadian Northern Society is divided into two classes: full and associate.

Full membership dues are \$20 per year, and include:

- Voting privileges at society meetings.
- Subscription to *The Canora Chronicle*.
- Invitations to society functions.

Associate membership dues are \$10 per year, and include:

- Subscription to *The Canora Chronicle*.
- Invitations to society functions.

With either class of membership, you get the satisfaction of knowing you are helping preserve the Dominion's railway history for future generations.

Please mail your dues (in Canadian dollars) to: The Treasurer, Canadian Northern Society, P.O. Box 1174 Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X2, Canada. Membership dues qualify as a Canadian tax credit, and receipts will be issued accordingly.

Once again, our longtime excellent supporter G.F. Fred Fowler is the first to renew his 2014 membership! Thanks, Mr. Fowler, for your support! Thanks also to James Munsey and Harry Home for their early membership renewals as well.

Janine Carroll, Managing Director for the society over the past six years, will be leaving the employment of the society. We wish her good luck in her future endeavours.

The Canadian Northern Society will be seeking a part time "Heritage Railway Station Co-ordinator" position immediately. This position, funded by the City of Camrose, will be critical to taking over day-to-day operational responsibilities around the Camrose station site that have been handled by volunteers in the past. Our need is for a dedicated individual with the willingness and ability to manage the Camrose site, assist with special events, participate in site maintenance, and light janitorial duties, and also assist our general administrative requirements. This position will report to the Camrose committee.

Interested individuals should apply to Karen Smith, Society Treasurer and Volunteer Co-ordinator, ksledz@cable-lynx.net.

CAMROSE NEWS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The station volunteers and staff have not been idle since the last *Chronicle* in September. The city grant proposal was prepared and presented to city council on November 18. We were well received. The city grant will be used to pay for the Station Co-ordinator position. Related to the change in need for more hours to be dedicated to operations the Camrose Board committee has met several times and given much thought to our needs at the present time. We will keep the membership posted regarding the details.

We had a wonderful volunteer appreciation dinner and 'Monster Mash' thanks to Barb and her wonderful ideas. The evening was to be a tribute to the volunteers that help in so many ways through the year. Despite the poor roads we were so pleased to have Bob and Kathy Willis, Don Gillespie and his wife Carol from Alberta Prairie as they do so much behind the scenes for the society. We also welcomed Rich and his wife who help with Big Valley. A special thank you to Shawn and Karen for cleanup and Liam and Adam our youngest volunteers, for helping with the sing-along.

Robin Piro completed the painting of all the downstairs windows and storm windows on the station and restored rotten window sills. He then sealed the storm windows. Robin tore out the old rotten fence around the living quarters, repaired and rebuilt a small area surrounding the garbage and recycling area and along the north side of the walk way.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS:

- To the Gaia College students who helped clean garden ornaments, performed fall pruning, weeded and helped prepare beds for the mulch.
- Michele Dandfer who assisted faithfully with the gardens.
- Bruce for putting away the many artifacts and outside structures that need winter protection.
- Cleaning Bee day volunteers that helped over four days in October to clean the station, reorganize and dust displays along with performing conservation procedures on artifacts as needed.
- Ed and Bruce for putting up the outside Christmas decorations.
- Eleanor, Carol Roy, Sharon Ofrim, Robbie, Gladys Kupka, and Karen who decorated the tearoom for Christmas and Barb who decorated the King George Room. We had a wonderful lunch of homemade perogies made by Karen and borscht made with Rawson beets.
- Janine for a great job of marketing the gift shop and the coming Cookie Walk and Tea.
- Shawn and Bruce who keep the snow off the sidewalks around the station.

- Carol and Ted Rawson for the donation of pumpkins, potatoes and carrots and the cleaning of fridges and freezers.

The gift shop has been open every Friday since November 1 and is doing well. Amazingly new items flow in each week. They are often found on the table or at the door from unknown donors. We raised \$200 the first day we were open. The new people that come to find treasures also are introduced to the station and site. Bruce kindly puts up signs on both ends of town every Friday morning.

The beginning of October a small wedding took place in the King George Room with the reception following in the Tea Room. The following week a 90th birthday party took place. December bookings commence on December 3 with a retired teacher's Christmas party. Among the bookings are a neighbourhood sing-along that will take place on December 10 accompanied by Ditmar Mundel on his accordion. The evening will end with board games.

The Friends of the Station will soon be busy preparing cookies, Christmas puddings and desserts for the Cookie Walk December 7. It is a great time to welcome and wish the community and one another a merry Christmas.

I look forward to the new year and although we sometimes resist change it must come to keep us moving forward. There are many tasks to complete plans for the new season and grants to be applied for, but we will move on. It is my prayer that we will continue to set priorities and make the station a place where people love to come, and where we are a united community of people working to leave a great legacy to the community by what they experience and the restoration and maintenance of the structures that contribute to keeping the history alive.

~ Glenys Smith

For the second year in a row, the Camrose Heritage Railway Station is hoping to offer an Organic Master Gardener Certificate program 2014. This is a series of sixteen classes mostly scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 pm. The first class is being held on January 16 and welcomes all registered and interested parties to join in an introduction and orientation to the program. The curriculum encompasses the basics of organic gardening including the studies of soils, composting, permaculture design and pruning. Pre-registration is encouraged as there is a limit to class size. Contact Eleanor White at white.eleanore@gmail.com or phone the station at 780-852-3099 for registration or information packages. This is a great venue for increasing knowledge at the grass roots level and networking with like-minded people.

BIG VALLEY NEWS AND FUTURE WORK PROJECTS



©Rich Graydon

In October we took delivery of a new lawn tractor for Big Valley. It's a John Deere X300, and we put it to good use on Saturday, October 26. Kathy Evans and I filled 13 bags of leaves from the yard and did a general clean-up. The grounds looked great all summer as well.

I have a long list of chores to do at the station and am working my way through them as time permits. I need to finish repairing the ceiling in the waiting area after last year's water leaks and then give it a coat of paint. I have some finishing and painting to do in the area we repaired on the stairs to the second floor as well. I've got some windows that I'm going to have to rebuild because they are falling apart.

I'm working on a plan to have a box car placed on the ground north of the station to replace the two sheds that are there now. Both sheds are falling apart and we need the storage/work space. The box car is already ours and I'm putting together a financial plan to see what it will cost to complete the project.

The bunk house has begun to sink in the middle of the building, and I'm going to have a look at what can be done to stabilize and level it as well.

Alberta Prairie Railway will be using the station to conduct their rules classes on December 2 and 3. The station meeting room continues to see use by local groups in Big Valley as well.

~ Rich Graydon

Sincere thanks to Richard Graydon who donated \$1000 towards the new mower, and arranged pickup of the tractor. Also thanks to Rich for his continued help and interest in maintaining the station and grounds. Your work and efforts are sincerely appreciated!

The Canadian Northern Society is pleased to fund a revision to the tourist brochure promoting the Village of Big Valley. With the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Village of Big Valley approaching in 2014, we felt it an appropriate community service to fund this revised brochure—which features the historic depot, roundhouse, the excellent Village Museum, and other local attractions. The brochure will be ready for distribution by the end of November.

HANNA ROUNDHOUSE GETS SECOND CHANCE



Photo©Charles W. Bohl

Canadian Northern Society member Sandra Beaudoin of Hanna has been successful in achieving her first goal in preserving the historic Canadian Northern Railway roundhouse site at Hanna—constructed 100 years ago in 1913.

Sandra is President of the Hanna Roundhouse Society, who have now been successful in purchasing the property which includes the 1913 CNoR roundhouse, the CNR turntable, the CNoR water tower foundation site and the site of a few other buildings east of the roundhouse.

Two successful public events were held at the roundhouse since access to the building was attained—September 21 for the Open House and Chuckwagon dinner in conjunction with the Hanna Pro Rodeo and a Halloween Walk on October 25.

The Canadian Northern Society is proud to be participating in this community project. We are actively researching the site's history, will design and provide interpretive signage, and will participate in feasibility studies.

Donations can be made to the Hanna roundhouse work. For further information contact Sandra by email at sandra.beaudoin1@gmail.com or through their Facebook page at Hanna Roundhouse Society.

Photo: Hanna roundhouse from the air, 1981.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY



E.J. Robinson's last trip of the season in Big Valley, September 22, 2013.



L to R: Bob Willis, Martha Robinson, E.J. Robinson, and Don Gillespie stand in front of the painting gifted to Emerson on his birthday celebration.

On September 22, the management and staff of Alberta Prairie Railway surprised Hanna's Emerson J. ("Red") Robinson with an 80th birthday gift—a beautiful painting entitled *Red Robinson at Work*, by Sharon Cory of Winnipeg. A great gift for a great fellow.

Sharon did a beautiful job of capturing Red's "retirement career"—which began after his retirement as a locomotive engineer from CN in Hanna, Alberta, in 1990—and has continued 22 years later with the Alberta Prairie Railway. September 22 was Red's last trip of the 2013 season and he was the assigned engineer on Alberta Prairie's "family special" between Stettler and Big Valley.

I had the honour of being invited to join Red in the cab on this last trip along the old Stettler Sub—my duty was to keep him busy while his bride Martha (sister to Gus, John, and Charlie Annas—also former rails from Hanna) and the rest of his family snuck aboard the train at Stettler to surprise him with Sharon's wonderful painting and lunch at the Big Valley Jubilee Hall.

Always proud of his career on the CNR, Red is doing great for 80. Besides the 12 "pay trips" that he worked running the Alberta Prairie steamer and diesels this summer, he keeps busy in the community and with the RCMP as a night watchman. I can recall while working with Red over the years he would tell me about regularly shovelling 20 tons of coal between Hanna and Calgary firing for those old time hogheads. While we didn't work that hard on the 22nd—I watched him handle that train as good as any! While we've heard hints of a "second retirement"—perhaps he will be back in the spring for a 62nd consecutive year of engine service!

~ Shawn Smith

FIRST ANNUAL "STEEL RAILS AND PRAIRIE TALES" EVENING — SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014

"Steel Rails and Prairie Tales" will feature unique historical presentations on transportation and agricultural history in western Canada—and in 2014 we are pleased to present—"Rival Rails to the Robson Valley"—the story of the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific Railways between Edmonton and Mount Robson, BC., along with a special presentation on the 100th anniversary of the Last Spike of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, by noted railway author and historian Leslie S. Kozma. Prairie photography of Brent Cheek and Lorrie Tiegs will also be featured.

Admission is \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors and students (13-18 + those attending studies), and free to children under 12. Family admission is \$30.00. All proceeds help the Canadian Northern Society continue to maintain and operate the Camrose Heritage Railway Station. Coffee, tea, juice and a special dessert is included in the admission price. The evening begins at 7 pm and will be held at the Bailey Theatre in Camrose. More details to follow in the next *Chronicle* and on our website at www.canadiannorthern.ca. All are welcome!

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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