



the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

2014 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

Any donations received with memberships continue to receive tax deductible receipts. *Thank you for your support.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Canadian Northern Annual General Meeting will be held at 4 pm at the Camrose Station, April 26. Please see insert for further information.

CAMROSE STATION WORK BEE

April 28 at 9:30 am.

Clean-up of the outside buildings and reorganizing artifacts and displays. Everyone is welcome to join in.

BIG VALLEY SPRING CLEAN-UP

*Saturday, May 10 - 10:00 am
Lunch will be supplied.*

Whether you have just an hour or several hours, any help is appreciated and valued.

MEETING CREEK ANNUAL SPORTS WEEKEND

*June 14 and 15.
The station will be open to visitors.*

Acknowledgements & Mail Box

The Canadian Northern Society sincerely thanks the following members and supporters for their recent cash donations: Gerry Piro of Camrose, Dean and Lorrie Tiegs of Edmonton, Ray Taylor of Bashaw, Wolf Kirchmeir of Blind River, Allan and Florence Johnston of Big Valley, Ralph and Cec Atkinson of Edmonton, Shawn and Karen Smith and family of Camrose, Dominion Railway Services Ltd., Mike Westren of Calgary, Camrose Community Band, Leslie S. Kozma of Edmonton, Val Sims of Camrose, and Charles W. and Lynette Bohi of White River Jct., VT.

Thank you to Robert Walger of Winnipeg for the memorial donation in memory of Hazel Walger.

To all our members and loyal supporters who have continued their memberships for 2014 –THANK YOU!

From the Mail Box:

"Keep up the Good work, the 'Chronicle' is a great little publication, Happy New Year."—Allan and Florence Johnston, Big Valley

"Well, after reading the 'Canora Chronicle' I can see you'll need a couple cans of paint to finish all of the painting you have planned. Good luck and enclosed is a donation towards the same. Regards—Ray Taylor, Bashaw"

"Please find enclosed a cheque for my membership and a cash donation as well. I appreciate receiving the 'Canora Chronicle' and reading about all the good and enjoyable work being done." Best wishes—Wolf Kirchmeir, Blind River Ontario.

"Best wishes for another successful year, enclosed please find our membership renewal and a donation towards continued work."—Charles W. and Lynette Bohi, White River Jct., VT.

The Canadian Northern Society is pleased to welcome Nadine Matheson, as the new Heritage Railway Station Coordinator. Nadine brings with her an educational background in history and education, as well as a multitude of work experience. Nadine also has valuable experience serving the public, and will be an asset to our school programs, having taught English as a second language to children and adults of all ages. Nadine enjoys gardening as well, and is excited to have the opportunity to assist in the gardens at the Camrose Station.

Please join us in welcoming her to our society, and feel free to welcome her in person if you find yourself visiting the Camrose Station anytime soon.

CAMROSE NEWS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Since the last *Chronicle* we have been through a number of transitions. Janine Carroll is no longer employed by the society, and we have hired Nadine Matheson as Station Coordinator. Nadine comes with a wide variety of skills and will be a great asset. We have set a number of goals that Karen, Nadine and I have been collaborating on to accomplish before the spring rush. We have explored and are putting into place new systems to improve office efficiency. All procedures are being reviewed and updated, old files destroyed or archived. We are in the process of making time lines for organizing and marketing all the events. Lorrie Tiegs has done a wonderful job of designing marketing packages and brochures and has ensured that all information is accurate and up to date.

I want to give a special thank you to Barb McDonald for the years she coordinated Prairie Fun Days, Founders Day and the Volunteer Coordination at the station. She also coordinated the school program bookings for several years. Her public relations and organizational skills make her a great asset to the team and we hope she will continue to be part of the Friends of the Station for a long time to come.

Shawn, Karen and I have been sharing applying for grants. Karen has applied for the student grants, Shawn has worked on reconciliations and we have collaborated on a grant for sprinkler systems for the station as an earlier one was turned down. I have had a learning curve preparing grants on-line. Nadine and I have been working on updating various websites with our event information. The orientation process we are going through will ensure that next year Nadine can coordinate without my assistance as she will be very familiar with administration and operations.

The Friends of the Station will assist again this season with input into station operations. Robbie O'Riordan is coordinating the Garden Tour in July. An ad will be put in the local newspapers in early February asking for gardens to tour that are in the city or within a two-mile radius from the city. If you know anyone who offered to show their gardens in 2014 or are interested in showing please call the station at 780-672-3099. Founders Day plans have already begun and although we will be no longer administrating for the whole city we are planning our contribution to the event. Karen Smith is coordinating Train Days this year and is presently busy with plans for Prairie Fun Days and organizing the Casino in Red Deer for May 1 and 2. Thank you to those who volunteered to work at the casino and if anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Nadine at 780-672-3099 as we have a few positions to fill yet.

The spring cleaning day, weather permitting will be

on April 28 starting at 9:30 am and will involve cleaning the outside buildings and reorganizing artifacts and displays. Everyone is welcome to join in.

We are making a proposal to Veterans Affairs to determine if our projects over the next two years that pay tribute to Canadians who went to war will be eligible for funding. Our plans include interpretive signage for the Victory Garden, cost of compiling community memories, displays and events plus the Bailey theater expenses. A display is being prepared on the *Railway at War* by Ya Ya. Barb is preparing a talk for Tribute to Prairie Women on her grandmother, Isabella Currie, who was a psychiatric nurse during World War I. Thank you to her mother Isabella who put together paper artifacts which have been copied and will be put into a manual on display along with the story and later into our library.

Thankfully Michelle Dandefere has updated our Kitchen Note Manual in time for our 2014 season. Gladys Douglas has offered to make the gingerbread dough for all the children's programs again this year. She made over 400 dough packages last year.

Eleanor White has done a wonderful job of marketing our children's programs. Bookings are coming in for Kindergarten and Grade 4 programs. It will be great to have Nadine's help to lead some of the programs this year. I would also like to thank Eleanor for the wonderful job of delivering the Organic Master Gardener Course this past fall. The evaluations were wonderful.

I would like to thank the community of Camrose and members from of our society who donated to the Christmas gift shop. We were able to raise \$1000 from gifts plus the funds we took in for the cookies and tea. The cooking bees and personal baking were amazing as we had available 180 dozen cookies. It was a relaxing fun day for the helpers and those who came despite the cold weather. We had a few cookies left over, some of which were taken to the CN office to thank the crew for the many times they helped us move large objects on the site including the turning of Percy on the track. There were a number of Christmas bookings including the family who faithfully book every Christmas Eve.

A special thank you goes out to Shawn and Bruce Smith for the many hours of snow removal. Bruce has completed the restoration of two outside station benches as well as cleaning, repair and repainting Garden Railway structures.

A meeting took place on January 22 with Bernice Kadatz, Michelle Dandefere, Eleanor White and I to discuss the future vision to promote the formation of an area epicenter based on the Gaia course principles. The creation of the conservation area at Meeting Creek along the future nature, bike, walking trail was discussed and how this fit in with the future vision. A decision was made by the group to assist and support

the application of a grant due February 24. The process has been commenced and information is being compiled to complete a Walmart Green Grant. This would be phase one of the project. Aboriginal funding for the proposed identification of medicinal plants, history and involvement at Camrose and Meeting Creek will be explored as well. Teaser talks to market to outside communities regarding the Gaia course offered for 2015 was explored. It is wonderful to have Bernice involved as she has an Organic Gardening Certificate, is a chemist, educator and an expert on soil management and has a desire to promote and educate regarding organic practices that build community through the principles of permaculture. We also thank Michelle who completed her Organic Gardener Certificate as well for her input and garden assistance.

~ Glenys Smith

October 2013 twelve participants received their Organic Master Gardener Certificates. Some students came from Camrose but many travelled from the surrounding areas. The students had completed all requirements and donated over 150 volunteer hours to the gardens at the station. The 2014 course has been postponed to January of 2015. We are looking forward to another “crop” of students networking together and building community relationships.

~ Eleanor White

Stop by and visit the Camrose Heritage Railway Station White Elephant Gift shop this summer. Many unique items for sale. There are limited copies of the 25th Anniversary Edition Cookbook still available for sale.



The Camrose Heritage Railway Station is seeking an enthusiastic, outgoing and motivated post-secondary student to fill the *Assistant Historical Coordinator* position for the 2014 Summer Season.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by March 31, 2014 to:

**Camrose Heritage Railway Station
Re: 2014 Summer Job
Box 1174, Camrose, AB T4V 1X2**

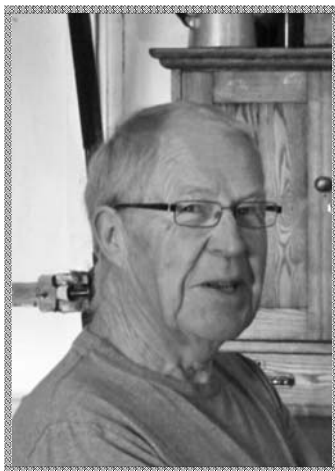
OR email to: canadiannorthern@telus.net



If you would like to receive the *Canora Chronicle* newsletter as an email attachment instead of a copy through the Royal Mail, please send us a message at:

secretary@canadiannorthern.ca

Volunteer Corner



By Karen Smith

In 1999, Bruce Smith and his wife, Glenys, retired and moved to Camrose, beginning a new “career” as one of the dedicated caretakers of the Camrose Heritage Railway Station. The first major project Bruce tackled was the design and construction of the Morgan Railway Garden. Along with the helping hands of summer student Matthew Lyseng, Bruce created this wonderful garden railway that is now one of the most popular attractions at the station. Bruce built many of the scale model buildings, and every winter repairs and maintains them in his garage. He has purchased an impressive collection of G-scale trains, including a Thomas and friends collection, a sure hit with children.

Bruce has also put much time and effort into the restoration of buildings, including the watchman’s shelter and bunkhouse. He has also helped in the construction of many new structures including the gazebo and Sparling shelter. For the children, he built the wooden train in the secret garden. He spent every spare minute he had during the winter of 2013 building the “Percy-like” train in his garage which countless children enjoy riding on. Bruce has restored many maintenance of way vehicles, including the handcar. When the north CN yard was reorganized, he obtained many tools that he cleaned and organized and now are displayed in the new toolhouse.

The hours Bruce spends mowing grass, cleaning snow from sidewalks and doing all of the little odd jobs around the building and grounds are an invaluable resource for the Camrose Heritage Railway Station.

Thank you Bruce, for giving so much of your time and skills to the improvement and maintenance of the Camrose Heritage Railway Station, and to the community!

HIGHWAY 56 NEWS

Winter snow removal has been a challenge at the Meeting Creek Station site, and we have finally given up on keeping the driveway clear given the large amounts of snow and prairie wind! Thank you to Shawn Smith, Dean and Lorrie Tiegs, and Lorene Bergstrom who continue to keep a watchful eye on the station and elevator over the winter months.

Congratulations to Stan Eichhorn and the rest of the dedicated volunteers who have been working so hard to preserve and maintain the Stettler P&H elevator on completing the re-painting of the elevator just before the snow flew in November. The elevator looks wonderful, and it will be nice to see the additional lettering applied in the spring. The Stettler P&H elevator stands as one of the eight extant wooden elevators on the old Canadian Northern Battle River Subdivision between Vegreville and Drumheller, with all but two now preserved as historical sites. We indeed have an "elevator row" along the line, including our own Alberta Pacific Grain elevator at Meeting Creek, and the Big Valley Historical Society's Alberta Wheat Pool structure.

Thank you to Richard Graydon for the snow removal and general winter maintenance at the Big Valley station this winter. Also a big thanks to Wayne and Phyllis Garrison for their continued volunteer support and effort: it is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Carina and Claudio at the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for assisting us with the process of obtaining our final funding (\$28,000) that represented a

50% match of our own contribution towards the re-roofing project that we conducted in early 2013. We also appreciate the support of Alberta Prairie Railway, Canadian Heartland Training Railway Services, and Northern Plains Rail Services who continue to use the depot and contribute financially and otherwise to its ongoing preservation and maintenance. A reminder that the community meeting room is available for use by simply advising Bob at Alberta Prairie, Richard Graydon, or one of our local volunteers.

Sincere thanks to Rich as well for the work he is doing with cutting nails off under the eaves in a couple of areas where the roofers came through last year. Once completed the areas will be repainted this summer. Also due to some water damage in the ceiling in the waiting room, Rich has torn down the damaged part and is working on repair of the damaged area and will be painting the whole ceiling this summer as well.

Anyone who would like to volunteer at the Big Valley station can contact Rich at 403-872-4454.

CANADIAN NORTHERN ROUNDHOUSE PROJECT

Sandra Beaudoin of the Hanna Roundhouse Society reports to our group that they have now submitted an application for Provincial Historic Resource Designation, now that the group owns the site. Fundraising and building awareness of the project continues to grow locally within the Town of Hanna, and across the railway and historic preservation community. The Hanna Roundhouse Society has retained a professional architect to assist with the next steps in securing and progressing the project. You can learn more about the Hanna Roundhouse project on Facebook.

The Canadian Northern Society has had several cash donations come in supporting this project which we and the Hanna Roundhouse Society greatly appreciate. We continue to plan development for interpretive signage at the site, and if we have volunteers interested in research, writing, and co-ordinating a project such as this please call Nadine at the Camrose Heritage Railway Station at 780-672-3099.

LAST SPIKE CENTENNIAL PLANS

January 23, 1915, is the centennial of the Canadian Northern Railway's last spike at Basque, British Columbia. In what has been historically reported as a simple ceremony, witnessed by construction workers and engineering personnel, Sir William Mackenzie completed the road - during the height of World War I. The legacy of the Canadian Northern continues to live on through our group's depot preservation efforts, historical research of the railway, and alliances with groups who have preserved such historically important sites such as the Canora station in Saskatchewan, the East Central Alberta Heritage Society, and now the Hanna Roundhouse Society.

The Canadian Northern Society along with other like minded individuals is seeking the nature of your interest in organizing a special celebration next January. Please contact Dean Tiegs at secretary@canadiannorthern.ca or 780-484-4038 if you are interested in helping with this celebration. We hope to have more to report in the next *Chronicles*.

The *Canora Chronicle* is the tri-annual newsletter of the Canadian Northern Society—a registered charity dedicated to providing community service through heritage tourism initiatives.

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CANADIAN NORTHERN SOCIETY 2014 EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Camrose, Alberta
©S.I. Smith Photo



Edberg, Alberta - 1981
©C.W. Bobi Photo



Meeting Creek, Alberta
©S.I. Smith Photo



Rowley, Alberta
©C.W. Bobi Photo



Big Valley, Alberta
©S.I. Smith Photo

April 26, 2014 - Annual General Meeting and Canadian Northern Night

The Canadian Northern Society is inviting its members and selected special guests to join us on April 26 at the Camrose Railway Station.

- **Annual General Meeting at 4 pm with appetizers to follow.**
- **Program with beverages and desserts to follow from 6 to 8 pm.**

The evening will feature:

- An interpretive presentation on Western Canadian Railway History. This presentation will be of interest to all in attendance.
- The Canadian Northern Society will also recognize selected individuals whose contribution to our collective effort of "Capturing History and Building Community" has resulted in a significant benefit to the community-at-large.

All members of the Canadian Northern Society are welcome to attend.

CAMROSE EVENTS

May 17, 2014 - Opening Day for the Station and Site
2014 Station hours of operation:

Tuesday through Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Self-serve refreshments (homemade cookies and beverages) can be purchased Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, throughout the season. Enjoy special desserts on Saturdays throughout July and August from 10 am - 5 pm. Gift shop open, tour of spring gardens and exhibits self or guided available. Take a ride on our Percy-like train.

May 31, 2014 - Plant Sale and Swap

Purchase or swap some of the many plants that grow so abundantly within our Station Gardens. Also available will be house plants, and seasonal white elephant items and inside gift shop open. Donations are gratefully accepted.

June 24, 2014 - National Aboriginal Day

As part of National Aboriginal Day, The Camrose Railway Station partners with the Camrose Arts Society to bring the community a First Nations Celebration. Two shows, morning and afternoon along with stories, dancing by an Aboriginal group and a round dance for all.

July 12, 2014

Annual Garden Tour and Victorian Luncheon

Enjoy several gardens throughout Camrose and area and a delicious Victorian luncheon in the historical Railway Station. The day starts at 10 am, 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. This will be a themed tour on companion planting of flower and vegetable gardens. Price is \$25 (including luncheon), please pre-register by phone 780-672-3099.

July 26, 2014 - Children's Train Day

Drop in from 10 am to 5 pm and take part in children's events with Thomas and Friends at the Station Garden Railway. Activities include a scavenger hunt, train craft and story and dance time with Lady Hatt. Sir Topham Hatt will be supervising the railway. Also meet the Conductor and Engineer. Ride the Percy-like train. Each child receives a Thomas cookie. Cost is \$5 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



August 2, 2014 - Tribute to Prairie Women

At 2 pm we will celebrate the contribution and women's role in our area's settlement. Join into the war-based theme; wear a hat or clothing from a past era. Home-made berry desserts will be featured.

August 16, 2014 - Founders Day Festival

Exciting events are hosted across the City of Camrose, celebrating the founders and history of our community. Activities for all ages. Firebox festival with fun children's activities. Be entertained by the Station Swing Band in a beautiful garden party atmosphere. A light lunch and homemade desserts available. Take a tour of the 13 heritage gardens on site.

For full schedule see www.camrosefoundersdays.com.

August 16, 2014 - Dessert Theatre, 7 pm

August 17, 2014 - Sunday Matinee, 2 pm (no dessert included)
Canadian Northern Society sponsored dessert theater: *Canadians at War* at the Camrose Bailey Theatre. Take yourself back to World War I with drama, theater, song and photography. *Canadians at War* presentation followed by play *Mary's Wedding* and war-time sing-along. Featured World War I dessert. Package plan available with tickets and events for the entire Founder's Day Festival. Reduced hotel rates available at the Norsemen Inn, Camrose.

Tickets: Saturday night \$20; Sunday matinee \$15. For further information visit www.baileytheatre.com and www.tourismcamrose.com.

August 30, 2014 - Last Day of the regular season.

Enjoy the gardens and all exhibits with family and friends on our last day of the season. Bookings can be made in off-season.

As a community centre, the Camrose Heritage Railway Station and Park is available year-round for small business workshops, meetings, corporate retreats and private family gatherings.

There are various options available for site rental and catering options. The Tea Room, equipped with an audio-visual system and large-screen TV, and the King George Room can comfortably accommodate business meetings and general assemblies, and are available for use by the public. Special Victorian teas can also be booked. The garden park can be reserved as a wonderful backdrop to an outdoor event. Call the Camrose Station at 780-672-3099 or visit our website.



December 6, 2014 - 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. Our volunteers bake batches of cookies (including gluten free) and other festive baking including homemade Christmas carrot pudding and loaves. Enjoy tea with seasonal homemade desserts. Purchase special gifts and treasures in our Station White Elephant Gift Shop. Gift shop open every Friday starting November 7 for the Christmas season.

BIG VALLEY EVENTS

August 1 - 4, 2014 - Village of Big Valley Centennial

Join us for family dances, community meals, fireworks and of course a spectacular parade as we celebrate the Village's 100th anniversary. Call 403-876-2269, e-mail info@villageofbigvalley.ca or visit our website at www.villageofbigvalley.ca for more details.

MEETING CREEK EVENTS

August 24, 2014

Prairie Fun Days at Meeting Creek Station

Enjoy tours of the station and elevator, ride the Track Car, and enjoy homemade pie. Children's activities include airplane crafts and scarecrow stuffing. Interpreters at the station will be in 1940s costume playing tribute to the World Wars. War-time displays can be seen throughout the station.

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

Canadian Northern Society

Ph: 780-672-3099

Email: canadiannorthern@telus.net

www.canadiannorthern.ca

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