



the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

BIG VALLEY CENTENNIAL

August 1 - 4, 2014

Village of Big Valley Centennial

Join us for family dances, community meals, fireworks and 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.

CAMROSE TRAIN DAY

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. Ride the Percy-like train. Each child receives a Thomas cookie. Cost is \$5 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

MEETING CREEK FUN DAY

August 24, 2014 - Prairie Fun Days at Meeting Creek Station

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

Acknowledgements and Thanks

The Canadian Northern Society sincerely thanks the following members and supporters for their recent donations:

- We would like to welcome new members to the society: Sherry Griffiths and Peggy Hanna Griffiths of Toronto, Bill Shaver of Wetaskiwin, Betty Clark of Airdrie, Kevin Quigley of Calgary, Don Kent of Big Valley, Jack and Jane Ross of Camrose, Lester Parsons of Camrose, R.D. Ernst of Camrose and Stewart and Wendy Nelson of St. Albert. Wendy Nelson is the great great niece of Sir William Mackenzie! **Welcome to the society and thank you all for your memberships!**
- Thank you to long-time member and retired CNR agent G.F. (Fred) Fowler for the recent donation of several railway books and videos for the Big Valley station community room library. Fred's contributions to the society over the years have been greatly appreciated.
- Thank you to Donna and Les Langille, Kurt and Elizabeth Baddan, Sandra Beaudoin of Hanna, Lester Parsons of Camrose, R.D. Ernst of Camrose, and to Carl Leaman, long time member and supporter from Westport CT for their cash donations.
- Thanks to Richard Gibbons of North Battleford, Clayton and Ruth Jones of Surrey, BC, and to Ernest Shatz of Oliver, BC for their generous cash donations with membership.
- Thank you to Sherry Griffiths and Peggy Hanna Griffiths of Toronto for their membership and kind donation. Peggy Hanna Griffiths is the granddaughter of D.B. Hanna, the former general manager of the old Canadian Northern Railway and the first president of Canadian National Railways. D.B. Hanna was part of the executive team who developed the Canadian Northern into an incredible catalyst for economic growth in western Canada—and we are honoured to have the Griffiths as members.
- Thank you to Gwyn Morgan and Patricia Trottier Foundation for their generous cash donation toward our society's continued efforts.

CAMROSE NEWS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Education Programs Report by Eleanor White

We have had a very successful season. The education programs started on Wednesday, May 14, and ended on June 20, 2014. The breakdown of the programs is as follows: ECS full-day 7 programs, half-day 12 programs, Grade 4 Green School 2 programs, A Day in the Life of the Railway (ADIL) 3 programs, Grade 4 combination Green School and ADIL, 2 programs, Grade 1-4 ADIL, 1 program. By my calculations and based on the bookings sheets this totalled 547 students and 125 adults. 2013 numbers were about 488 students and 88 adults; a 12% increase in students and a 42% increase in adults. There were two challenges encountered this year; groups of approximately 40 for some of the ADIL programs and one teacher who brings almost as many parents as she has children. This year all teachers were sent evaluations to be completed on-line. At this time not all responses are in. Next year our goal is to design a survey for students as well. These education programs continue to be popular mainly due to our fantastic volunteers. We have two full day ECS programs already booked for 2015! Thank-you to all for being such enthusiastic participants.

Since the last *Chronicle* we have been to Casino for three days, completed programming for 547 students and preschoolers, held baking and food preparation bees, prepared spring gardens and held a plant sale, accommodated eight bookings including the Battle River Community Foundation barbeque, a wedding, a rehearsal supper, completed three walks to identify plants at Meeting Creek, and held a successful Aboriginal Days with around 1000 persons in attendance. The volunteer director, Sandra Mclay, and her volunteer cast—Rebecca Hohnsbein and Brian Dumont have also been working on the play *Mary's Wedding* for Founders Days August 16 and 17. We will be presenting a dessert theater Saturday night and a matinee at the Bailey theater. The program will pay tribute to *Canadians at War* starting with a 20-minute original film presentation, a talk by Marian Bennett on animals of war, the 90-minute play followed by a sing-along with vocal led by Michelle Petersen. Please tell your friends and plan to come. We will also have world war displays at the Bailey and Station.

I want to thank the persons who gave their time to attend the Red Deer Casino: Ron Hillis, Carol Rawson, Pat Edgerton, Janet Enns, Sharon Ofrim, Ed Kuzalik, Ann and Lew Goddard, Bruce Smith, Betty Clark, Donna Longelle and Kurt Bagdan. We will receive \$30,000 that will be divided between the three sites. Everyone did a great job and were patient with me as it was my first time as casino organizer. Thanks to

Karen and Shawn Smith for completing the preliminary paper work.

Our two summer students, Sierra and Rebecca, are excellent and we could not have accomplished what we have over the last two months without them. Eleanor's marketing and booking organization for the school programs could not have run as smoothly as they did without her expertise as this is a major time commitment. Thank you to all who joined the fun and challenges of this year's school programs. Flexibility was a key component.

We had a larger crowd at our plant sale then we have ever had. Thanks to those who helped dig plants especially Minota Dundas and Gladys Douglas who also helped on the day of the sale. We sold carrot cake in the tearoom which was very popular. The total income from white elephant gifts and plants was over \$400 for the day.

We did not receive our original conservation grant from Walmart for the Meeting Creek Conservation project but are planning to apply to CREP for a grant. We have started the initial phases of the project—identifying flora and fauna on the developed trail by the East Historical Society Linear Park and the east side which requires developing. We will need to have a working bee in the grass area we hope to interpret to remove old page wire from the grassland areas. Bernice Kadatz mulched the lane to the land and with her flail mower as well as the brome grass. She has been a great support to us through the whole process with her expertise. Thank you to the Outdoor Club members who have helped and plan to continue to help in the future with flora and fauna identification. We are fortunate to have Reg Ernst who is an environmentalist in our Outdoor Club who is now a member of the society to assist us as well. Four students from Augustana University will be helping with preparation of discovery packages in the fall under a special outreach program. We will be phasing the project over the next two years and are happy to be partnering with Bob Willis president and members of the East Central Linear Park. They have started the creation of a legacy for future generations by preserving this trail. We also want to thank Dan Smith, Bruce's nephew, a consultant environmentalist, who is willing to volunteer his expertise and those of his company should we need them.

Morgan Cleveland, who we hired a short time ago to be Volunteer Coordinator, is unable to continue. We will just carry on for the summer with Nadine and I working together to engage and support volunteers until the fall. We have been so blessed with the many volunteers who help every week for different events, tasks and activates. Drop in volunteers such as Minota and Carol Rawson. We would like to welcome two new volunteers—Minota Dundas and Mae Whrich. Mae is

going to take over organizing the gift shop. Therese Mazure, another new volunteer, will be dropping in to help in the gardens when she can and we look forward to having her help and assistance.

Karen Smith ably coordinated the bannock making for Aboriginal Days. A team of volunteers—Ann Goddard, Karen, Minota, Rebecca, Sierra, and Dorothy made over 900 fried bannock which all sold. The school classes ordered ahead of time. Along with the two donations from the Thrift shop and Women of the Moose we will be able to pay all our expenses for the day. Thank you to our donors and volunteers. The weather was perfect, the dancers wonderful and at least 1000 people attended. The sculpture and art on display plus other crafts were spectacular. Thank you to Nadine and the staff at the Art Center for the partnership that made this day possible. A special thank you to Bruce who ensured the grass was cut for the day, the tents, chairs and tables put up and away at the end of the day.

Robbie has been coordinating the Garden Tour and Victorian Luncheon for July 12. We will be requiring volunteers for this day. Come and enjoy the baking preparation ahead of time working together at this special event. Robbie has all details very well planned to make it a successful day. Thank you, Robbie.

I would to thank the people who donate cookies and other baking, who donate to our white elephant gift shop, to Hazel at Tourism Camrose for the promotion and brochures, to the *Booster* and the *Canadian* for printing our stories and event promotions, the Battle River Community Foundation for the money to update our security system at the station, Shirley Stagg for her father's story as a medical officer during World War II and photos that we have used for display, Isabelle Currie for the amazing portrait of a family member who died in World War I, the Centennial Museum for use of a World War I soldiers uniform for the play, Alberta Prairie Steam Trains for donation of train tickets for our raffle again this year, Anne Goddard for donation of homemade carry bags, Bill Walker for building the cabinet at the entry of the tea room, Jane Ross for the editing of Myrtle Zimmerman's story that will be printed for a book of stories facilitated by the Battle River Creative Writing Society and will be printed by University Press, Carol Roy for sewing the uniform I will wear during the monologue of Helen Fowlds (World War I nurse) at the tribute to Prairie Women on August 3 and at Meeting Creek Prairie Fun Days on August 2. Thank you to Lorrie and Dean for the editing of Helen Fowlds story and printing of several books that have her full story (Permission of Trent University). Thank you to the City of Camrose for the grant for the 20-hour position for Nadine, the Canadian Government for the grant for one of our University students. Also a thank you to Diana Nickel for a large beautifully framed watercolor that we

are going to auction at our Christmas events.

The summer will go very quickly again and it is with gratitude that I review the past and look forward to the future. I thank you all for your patience as we have gone through and are still going through transition. Life is forever changing and that is not a bad thing. We have a wonderful supportive community.

~ Glenys Smith

UPCOMING EVENTS



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. Homemade 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.

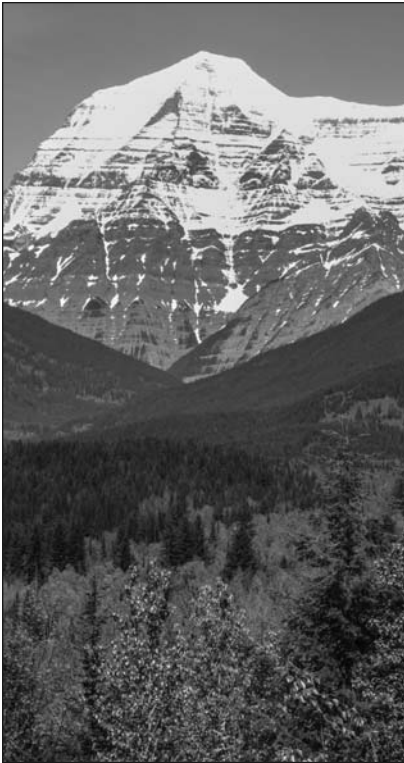
Tickets: Saturday night \$20; Sunday matinee \$15. For further information visit www.baileytheatre.com and www.tourismcamrose.com.

Canadian Northern Society introduces “The Order of Mount Robson.” In addition to the preservation of our heritage railway stations, there are several members of the Canadian Northern Society who have been active for many years in researching the corporate and operating history of our namesake railway—the Canadian Northern. Further, several of our members have family ties to the old Canadian Northern—something the society executive felt should be recognized. Thanks to the design work of Lorrie and Dean Tiegs—we now have a special way to honor those individuals with a special connection to the Canadian Northern Railway—through our “Order of Mount Robson.” Mount Robson of course, located some 50 miles west of Jasper on the original Canadian Northern Railway main line, is a fitting symbol in many ways for the order.

We are very pleased to announce the first two recipients of the Order of Mount Robson. Founding member and railway historian **Leslie S. Kozma** was presented with his honour at our Annual General Meeting in April. Les has spent years researching and documenting many facets of the history and operation of the Canadian Northern, as well as other CN predecessor lines. His research work has been featured in several books and publications and has been invaluable in our preservation efforts.

Harry R.J. Home, retired CN locomotive engineer from Jasper was our second recipient. Through Harry’s work in the preservation of ex-CN locomotive 6060 for the last 40 years, Harry has always maintained a special place in his heart for the Canadian Northern. Harry’s father, John Cameron (Jack) Home, was a locomotive engineer who hired out on the Canadian Northern in 1913—and we have honoured Harry for this special family connection, in addition to his love for the old road.

Please join the entire Canadian Northern Society and our communities in congratulating these two fine individuals on their induction into the “Order of Mount Robson”.



©Lorrie Tiegs Photography

IN MEMORY OF ALLAN JOHNSTON (1928 - 2014)



©S.I. Smith

Excerpt from S.I. Smith’s tribute presented at Allan’s memorial, Feb. 2014.

I was honoured to be asked to say a few words about our friend Allan Johnston—to celebrate the life of such a great family man, teacher, historian, community builder, and gentleman.

I further am honoured to speak on behalf of many of us who came to know Allan through our collective association with railroading. A son of a locomotive engineer—once a source of immense pride for boys whose fathers sat on the hero throne of a locomotive engineer’s seat in a steam locomotive—especially during the glory days of steam railroading in North America. Allan was indeed very proud of his family history. My personal friendship with Allan began back in the early days of operation of our Central Western Railway short line. As the President of the Historical Society, he was one of those community people who had the gift of bringing people together for a common cause—and of course in Allan’s case it was the preservation

of Big Valley’s history. “History is a wonderful thing” he used to say.

Over the years, as Alberta Prairie developed our passenger excursion service, Allan would become an incredible supporter of our efforts, and a wonderful ambassador for Big Valley.

Allan was also an integral part of our local railway preservation efforts - be it through his significant contribution in ensuring that our wonderful Canadian Northern Railway depot here at the end of main street has remained a classic landmark into its second century, or through his latent interest, passion, and research into Big Valley’s history. Over the years this work included the preservation of a great collection of railway related photographs and personal interest stories.

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I will personally miss the conversations that I would have with Allan on the history of Big Valley. It seemed that right from the Village's early days he knew who lived in each and every house, who owned and managed all of the local businesses, and on the lighter side—he could tell of many humorous events. In this respect, we have no doubt lost an irreplaceable story-teller, and living link with this community's past.

We are very grateful that in 2012, Allan's long-time contribution to Big Valley—and by extension—the greater community of Alberta and Canada, was recognized with his receipt of the Governor General's "Caring Canadian" award. Allan accepted this award as he always did, with a somewhat humorous speech, and with humility and class.

Like other community builders who have gone before him, if you look around Big Valley, you can see Allan's lasting legacy. "History is indeed a wonderful thing."

"Over the Line with Dad"

*If I could be a boy again / In footloose days of yore
Free from the cares that makes us men,
Aboard a steam engine once more.
Of all there was I now recall
That made my boy heart glad,
I wish that I might go again / Over the line with Dad.*

*Chum with the fireman laugh and joke,
Ride on that engine awhile,
Washing away the grime and smoke,
Standing up straight in the aisle;
Climbing up on the counter high,
Oh, what a treat for a lad!
Coffee, sandwich, and apple pie –
Over the line with Dad.*

*Sit way up in the brakeman's seat,
With an eye back on jostling cars,
Watching through the night to view
The way of the lanternd stars;
Being close - to the truest friend / That ever a fellow had,
Wishing the trip might never end / Over the line with Dad.*

*That old steam engine has gone long since,
And its crew has whistled the sky,
Fancy still with its radiant tints / Illumines the days gone by!
And when God's caller comes 'round for me,
My heart shall be far from sad
If only I know that I'm to go / Over the line with Dad.*

~ Author Unknown

BIG VALLEY EVENTS

Summer 2014 marks the 100th year of incorporation for the Village of Big Valley. Yes, although the railway arrived three years earlier, the Town of Big Valley was incorporated in 1914—and this centennial is being marked as part of Big Valley Homecoming August 1-4.

As a contribution to the celebration, the Canadian Northern Society has developed a handout on the history of the railway in Big Valley for distribution at the Homecoming, and to serve as a self-tour guide at the Roundhouse site.

Join the Canadian Northern Society at the Big Valley Station on October 25 for a meet and greet with various railway preservation groups in the East Central Alberta area, from 9am to 3pm. There are a number of groups that are making efforts to preserve railway history in the area, infrastructure, equipment or architecture. This will be a good opportunity to discover some common goals and possible alliances. Contact Rich Graydon by email at richndar@shaw.ca for further info.

MEETING CREEK NEWS

Thank you to Lorene Bergstrom of Meeting Creek who handled the spring cleaning chores at the station and grain elevator. She has done her usual excellent job. We've also planted some additional trees this spring on the streetside of the station; hopefully Mother Nature co-operates, and the trees will nicely grow.

This summer we are planning some exterior painting of the station, with the trim on the subdivision-direction south, and streetside requiring paint.

The station grounds were used by the Burnstad family for a campout during the Annual Meeting Creek sports day in early June. We are glad to share the site with those who appreciate it.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM CANADA WHEN ...

1. You only know three spices: salt, pepper and ketchup.
2. You design Halloween costumes to fit over snowsuits.
3. You've taken your kids trick-or-treating in a blizzard.
4. Canadian Tire on any Saturday is busier than the toy stores at Christmas.
5. Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled in with snow.
6. You think sexy lingerie is tube-socks and a flannel nightie with only 8 buttons.
7. The local paper covers national and international headlines on two pages, but requires six pages for hockey.
8. You find -30C a little chilly.
9. The trunk of your car doubles as a deep freeze.
10. You attend a formal event in your best clothes, your finest jewelry and your Sorels.
11. You perk up when you hear the theme from "Hockey Night in Canada".
12. You remember summer as that one day where you had a great picnic.

We are very grateful to Don Gillespie, and to his staff—in particular Jim Potter at Alberta Prairie Railway, for the repair work that was performed on Brent Cheek's track motor car which we house at Meeting Creek. Having transmission problems last year following our Prairie Fun Day event, Don hauled the motor car to the railway's shops in Stettler this winter where the motor car was repaired. We now have it back in service thanks again to Don's generosity.

Thank you to our dedicated regular Meeting Creek volunteers—Lorene Bergstrom, S.I. Smith and boys, Don Gillespie and Bruce Smith.

MELVILLE RAIL STATION GETS NEW LIFE



©C. Bohi, 1971

Melville, SK, GTP Division Point Depot, August 1971.

The Melville Rail Station Heritage Association has been in existence since 2004, at which time we successfully rallied to oppose CNR's application for demolition of the station. It was a classic and lengthy David-and-Goliath battle which concluded with our Association successfully receiving title to the station in 2010.

We are a charitable group dedicated to the preservation and refurbishment of the Melville Rail Station to its former glory. It is the only rail station of its kind left in Canada today.

Our station is more than one hundred years old and possesses many unique architectural features, and a very rich and varied history, which includes hosting the Royal Visit of 1939. A crowd in excess of 60,000 people turned out to visit the Royal Couple. The population of Melville, at that time, was approximately 3,000 souls.

To date, we have spent in excess of \$150,000 on the refurbishing phase, which includes a new cedar shingle roof. We solely rely on donations, grants and fundraising projects for our enhancement of the structure, and we do not receive any tax dollars from the City of Melville. We intend to put the building back into use for the benefit and use of the community and region, after refurbishment has been completed.

The 3rd Annual Gala was held on Saturday, April 12, 2014, which celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Visit. A special edition commemorative coin was designed for the event.

Donations to our association gratefully accepted.

Our contact information is:
Melville Rail Station Heritage Association Inc.
P.O. Box 3419, Melville, SK S0A 2P0

~ Merv Ozirny, Chairperson

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS IN BIG VALLEY



©R. Graydon

Alberta Historical Resources Board Chairman, Fred Bradley, participating in the Canada Day Celebrations at Big Valley.



©R. Graydon

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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