



the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Memberships are due in January 2016.

Full membership dues are
\$20 per year.

Associate membership dues
are \$10 per year.

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.

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 Tiegs
Society President



Help us to increase our followers and "Like" us on Facebook!

In Memoriam

Ronald Bailey of Edmonton, Alberta:

A long-time member and supporter of the Canadian Northern Society, Ron Bailey, passed away in Edmonton on October 15. Ron began his railway career as a surveyor under Major J.L. Charles—a veteran railway builder who was engaged in the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific. He retired in 1984 as Regional Chief Engineer on the CN's Mountain Region. During his career and since his retirement he has been active in documenting and writing about the history of the Canadian Northern. Ron's father—Mr. W.R. Bailey, was a locomotive engineer from Wakopa, Manitoba—who started railroading on the Canadian Northern.

Acknowledgments to the following:

Welcome to new members Larry Stone of Airdrie, Alberta, Judith Bosch of Camrose, Alberta, Pat Kenner of Donald, Alberta, and Rae Fleming of Woodville, Ontario.

Thank you for the donations to the society from Larry Stone of Airdrie with his membership, and to Rae Fleming for his contribution to our Canadian Northern Last Spike activities this year and his recent cash donation to the society.

Hanna Roundhouse Society Update:

As the work at the Hanna Roundhouse continues, we are continually looking for interested people to lend a hand with our efforts. Our existing volunteers (who are AMAZING!!!!), are exhausted with all the hard work they've done this year. If you are interested in helping our board advance the roundhouse please be in touch.

Following the CN Retiree Railroader Reunion at the Hanna Roundhouse August 7-9, the roundhouse fell victim to three separate break-ins. The hard work of our small group of volunteers was violated with damage to areas of the building and theft which resulted in additional steps required at our expense for increased security.

November 3-13, Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framers Ltd., were at the Roundhouse to complete Phase 1 of stabilization/repairs! Thank you to matching grant funds from Alberta Culture and Tourism, Special Areas and donation funds, we were able to cover the expenses.

To our supporters and volunteers, thank you! The Hanna Roundhouse Society Board members look forward to an exciting 2016! We would like to wish all readers, *Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2016!*

~ Sandra Beaudoin, President, Hanna Roundhouse Society

To contact the Hanna Roundhouse Society, please email: sandra.beaudoin1@gmail.com.

CAMROSE NEWS & EVENTS

A work bee was held at the station on Oct. 3, and despite the cold weather was attended by several Gaia college students. As well, on Oct. 4 Gaia students helped to mix and place the leaf mulch on our flower beds. Bruce Smith worked endlessly grinding leaves with the mower in preparation. Thank you to all who came and a special thank you to Eleanor White for her assistance with organizing this day.

On Oct. 24, the Canadian Northern Society held its annual Volunteer Appreciation supper in Camrose. This year several special guests were invited, which included people who showed their gardens during our July Annual Garden Tour and Victorian Luncheon. A special thank you to Donny and Shirley Loewen for making and serving the homemade sausage, Ed Kuzalik for his fabulous potato dish, Carol and Ted Rawson for their garden vegetable dish, Mae Ulrich for her homemade pickles, Glenys and Bruce Smith for donating the sauerkraut purchased from the Holden Hutterites. Thank you to Karen Smith for her technical expertise for the evening and to Liam and Adam Smith, Art Fadum, Karen Smith, Bruce Smith and Barb McDonald for being a part of the Kitchen Band. Liam entertained us on his new clarinet playing "Ode to Joy", an appropriate song for the evening. Many dressed up adding to the fun of the evening with special acknowledgements to costumes to: Eleanor White, Pat Edgerton, Glenys Smith and Robbie O'Riordan. The evening ended with "The Bunny Hop". Thank you to all who assisted with serving and clean-up including Ken, our Station Coordinator, who assisted in many ways to make the evening a success.

Since September the station has almost been cleaned from top to bottom. Thank you those who helped: Barb, Gladys Kupka, Ken, Gary, Carol Roy, Carol Rawson, Linda, Bruce and Glenys.

Decorations for Christmas are again unique and beautiful. The homey warmth of the station has resulted in a place where people feel at home and this was demonstrated on the opening day of our Gift Shop Tea, which was a great success. Thank you to Sharon Ofrim, Carol Roy and Barb McDonald for decorating and Diana, Linda, Pat Lyseng and Dorothy for helping the day of the Tea. The community and society members have been so supportive in donating and purchasing. The Cookie Walk and Tea was held on December 5. Three days of baking and preparing 80 dozen cookies took place prior to the event. A special mention and thank you for the large donations to the Gift Shop from Peggy and Steve Shuman, Diana Nickel and Cec Atkinson. Diana Nickel and Carol Rawson have donated many jars of jam, jellies and honey as well as cookies. We thank all who donated cookies.

We would like to welcome Linda Roth as a new volunteer at the station. As well, we would like to pay tribute to Garry Middleton who has been faithfully coming to complete many projects at the station including outside restoration tasks. With Garry's carpentry experience, he has been able to assist Bruce with many outdoor projects including repairing the stairs at the elevator office at Meeting Creek and has developed a new plan for the Garden Railway to be started first thing in the spring when weather permits. The track needs a complete overhaul related to the many years of soil heaving and change. At the present time Garry is working to restore two historical signs for Meeting Creek. With Garry's expertise in network administration, and educator of math and science programs, he has been a great asset to the station. He has worked with Ken on identifying technically appropriate devices that we need to place in the station to add to the interpretive interest for school children and tourists. Grants are being applied for to complete this

project. Thank you to Donny Loewen who built the new dance floor and patio with fence that surrounds it, which added to the enjoyment of visitors this past summer. Thank you to Brian Steiger who completed outdoor jobs around the station as well. The contribution of these very skilled individuals is very much appreciated.

Glenys along with Bernice Kadatz, a soil specialist and lecturer from Tofield, have completed a Watershed grant for funding to continue the project at Meeting Creek to restore the prairie grassland area east of the station for ecotourism and to save this area for the future. We have had the support of a number of partners including the Battle River Watershed Alliance, the Alberta East Central Heritage Society and the Wildrose Outdoor Club. Two community service students from Augustana University have been working with us as well to research the geological history of Meeting Creek which will form the basis for a sign and a new discovery kit on Geology. A day has been planned for a school Save Our Earth Day June 4 at Meeting Creek where we will facilitate a curriculum-based environmental program which includes an Aboriginal component for a maximum of five classes for Grades 4 and 5. Please visit our school programs page on our website at canadiannorthern.ca for more information. The grass remediation will be an example of organic agriculture and a trail will eventually be developed through the area. Anyone interested in assisting with this project please call Glenys at the station.

We have finalized our events for 2016, so mark your calendars and join us this coming summer!

- Glenys Smith



**What type of cars do
elves drive?**

Toy-otas!

BIG VALLEY UPDATE

After a busy summer of Alberta Prairie train tours the season in Big Valley is winding down. Three Christmas party trains were held on Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 with the station open for all of the trips.

We had a great summer and fall thanks to Wayne and Phyllis Garrison who volunteered many hours cleaning and in the gardens and yard at the station. Fantastic job folks and thanks so much for making my summer much easier to manage! Jake Wilson was also with us again this summer and completed a number of projects including getting our new storage building painted and lots of little jobs around the yard, thank you!

I recently met with a representative from the Alberta Heritage Resources Foundation in Big Valley at the Roundhouse. In the spring, I will be installing crack monitors on the Roundhouse to make sure none of the structures are moving and may require repairs. It was also suggested that I cut the bush back approximately 4 feet from around the buildings to help preserve the foundations.

The station continues to be used each Wednesday by the Big Valley artists group. It was also booked in October and November by Alberta Health Services for some community health seminars. The Village of Big Valley has also used the station for meetings this fall. It's always nice to see the community meeting room getting some use.

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year from Darlene and me.

~ Rich Graydon

**Why was Santa's little helper
depressed?**



He had low ELF esteem!

ORGANIC MASTER GARDENER COURSE 2015 WRAP UP



The Camrose station celebrated the Organic Master Gardeners who had fulfilled all of their obligations to obtain a certificate of completion. They had to complete no less than eighty hours of class time, assignments, tests and volunteer time over the course of the year. The celebration included a short talk by Diane Howes. She told her story of how she got involved in the Camrose Horticultural Society. Bernice Kadatz also gave a very informative talk and answered numerous questions on the future directions of her farm proving that caring for our earth is an ever evolving task. The evening was rounded out with a sampling of treats (veggies and dip, tomato nuts and raisin bundt cake, chocolate Black Forest-like cake and apple crisp) supplied by the students along with much networking and laughter.

Pictured above proudly holding their certificates are Marie Michele Benoit, Melissa Kennard, Michelle Ratz, Hazel Cail and Joeline Gascoyne.

MEETING CREEK NEWS

This fall the new fence around the Meeting Creek station was completed and will see a fresh coat of paint in the spring.

Thank you to Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and Carlo Laforge for the advice received on long term planning for the re-shingling of the depot, which will be a requirement over the next few years. In addition, we



appreciate the financial support of the Foundation towards the painting, platform replacement, and grain elevator fire guard that was completed back in fall of 2013 - but recently reviewed and found eligible for funding.

We are rebuilding the train order signal as it requires maintenance (as it did when it was in active service on the CNR) every ten years or so. Thank you to Paul Vandevor and Canadian Northern Plains Rail Services for their generous donation of agreeing to help re-construct the train order signal over the winter months, and for the work that Paul did in installing a new sump and water pump under the freight shed floor this fall when our older pump failed.

Lastly, thank you to our dedicated volunteers of Jerry and Lorene Bergstrom, Shawn, Liam, and Adam Smith, Brent Cheek, and Dean and Lorrie Tiegs who always keep a watchful eye on the depot and site—and to Richard Graydon and Don Gillespie who have helped out once again on special projects this year. We could not maintain this historical piece of Canadian prairie history without this dedicated group of people!

STEAM TRAIN KHR 2141 IS BACK



Photos©Russ Grycan, Kamloops

News from the Kamloops Heritage Railway is that the 2141 Heritage Steam Train is up and running with several runs planned for this fall and winter including special Halloween and Christmas events. The engine is all shined and polished and has been performing well, and the coaches are in excellent shape and very clean. To all the organizers and volunteers who made this possible, you deserve a lot of credit—a fitting end to the Centennial Celebrations this year!

NOVEMBER 22, 1915 TO NOVEMBER 22, 2015

The first freight train over the [CNoR] coast-to-coast line left Edmonton at 06:55 Monday [22 November] for Vancouver. It is the first commercial train that has gone over the new transcontinental line and it carried full tonnage showing that this line was not only a necessity for commercial purposes, but that the people of Edmonton district appreciate the fact that they are now connected with Vancouver by a direct line.

The first passenger train leaves the [CNoR] depot Tuesday morning for Vancouver.

“Fast Freight Train Over CNR To Vancouver Left on Monday”, The Edmonton Bulletin, 23 November 1915.

Promptly at 08:00 Tuesday the first [CNoR] passenger train, Edmonton to the coast, steamed out of the union depot on its 34-hour journey, thus not only definitely opening up for the public the final stretch of a third transcontinental railway system, but also providing Edmonton with a much shorter and quicker route to Vancouver, and at the same time, placing a big area within the possibilities of greater development and settlement.

It is ten years ago since the first passenger train steamed into Edmonton from the east, amid popular rejoicing over such an epochal event, and at the public banquet which followed, Sir Donald Mann, one of the guests of the city on that occasion, allowed his thoughts to be swept onward, to the time that the road would be pushed across the mountains, so that Edmonton could possess all the advantages that another transcontinental system affords. The intervening period may have been longer than Sir Donald thought, but it has arrived at last, and although there was no demonstration on Tuesday, when Conductor George Cavanagh shouted “All Aboard” the spectators could not help reflecting on the tremendous changes that have taken place in Edmonton’s transportation problems within the past few years.

Passengers can now travel in four directions from Edmonton, via

the ED&BC north, the A&GW north, the Athabasca line north, the Onoway-Peace River line of the [CNoR], the [CNoR] main line, the [GTPR] main line west, the [CNoR] main line east, the [GTPR] main line east, the [CNoR] Camrose branch, the [CNoR] Stony Plains branch, the CPR branch south, the [GTPR] branch to Calgary, the [CNoR] branch to Calgary, and the CPR to Winnipeg by way of Wetaskiwin. Such a wonderful change within almost a decade was not even dreamed of by the sturdy pioneers who pinned their faith to this section of the province.

There were one hundred passengers on the first [CNoR] train for the west Tuesday morning. Engineer W.L. Loomis was in charge of the locomotive, and the equipment consisted of the combination dining and observation car *Mistaya*, the sleeping coach *Napanee*, one first-class day coach, one smoking coach, and baggage and express cars.

Both the diner and the sleeping car are electrically-lighted and have all the latest improvements for the comfort of the passengers.

The train is due to arrive at Vancouver at 17:30 Wednesday afternoon. Trains in future will leave Edmonton on Su-Tu-Fr and Vancouver on M-W-Sa. The first train from Vancouver will arrive at Edmonton at 20:20 on Thursday night.

“All Aboard For Vancouver’ Was Call on Tuesday”, The Edmonton Bulletin, 24 November 1915.

Only two minutes late, the first [CNoR] passenger train from the Pacific coast to Edmonton steamed into the Union Depot at 20:32 last night, after a successful trip. There were 25 through passengers from the coast, and the train also did a large amount of local business.

The train consisted of the dining car *Tawatinaw*, the sleeping car *Belleville*, tow day coaches and a baggage car.

“First Regular CNR Train From Vancouver Reaches Edmonton”, The Edmonton Bulletin, 26 November 1915.

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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Camrose Heritage Railway Station – Workshops for 2016

JANUARY 16, 2016

BUTTON CUFF BRACELET MAKING

Time: 9:00 am to Noon

Cost: \$10.00 per person

(Maximum 15 participants, adults only)

Facilitated by retired school teacher, Eleanor White.

Use your old vintage or new shank buttons to create a beautiful button cuff bracelet that matches your personality. Using simple techniques and everyday supplies you can learn to make these in less than three hours. Bring your own buttons or purchase them at the workshop for a small fee. Join us for this laughter-filled fun workshop to make these unique bracelets.

FEBRUARY 6, 2016

FOREST GARDEN DESIGN AND ESTABLISHMENT

Time: 9:30 am to 1 pm

Cost: \$35.00 per person includes beverage and morning snack. (Maximum 15 participants)

Facilitated by well-known organic farmer Takota Coen from Grass Roots Family Farm.

During this intensive workshop you will learn theory, design, establishment and management of forest gardens for food, fuel, fibre, fodder, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer and fun. Whether you start an edible ecosystem in your back yard or a multi-acre area on your farm or acreage, this workshop gives you the skills and resources to get started.

FEBRUARY 20, 2016 - GARDENING WITH ANIMALS

Time: 9:30 am to 1 pm

Cost: \$35.00 per person includes beverage and morning snack. (Maximum 15 participants)

Facilitated by well-known organic farmer Takota Coen from Grass Roots Family Farm.

An introductory workshop on how to successfully integrate various livestock like chickens, pigs, fowl and rabbits into your gardening rotations. Learn how to get all your weeding, tilling, fertilizing, aeration, shredding and more done for free. You might even get eggs and bison too.

MARCH 12, 2016 - SOIL ENHANCEMENT USING BOKASHI COMPOST

Time: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Cost: \$50.00 per person includes beverage and morning snack, all supplies. Need to supply your own lunch. (Maximum 12 participants)

Facilitated by Bernice Kadatz.

Bokashi compost is a soil enhancement method that uses a mix of microorganisms to cover food waste and convert it into a soil probiotic. The microbes feed other soil organisms that make soil dark, rich and productive. Bokashi compost is an amendment every gardener will love. It is an effective method of recycling your garden waste and household scraps that can typically be responsible for up to 50% of our household waste. Using Bokashi compost is the key element to improve nutrient cycling in the soil and is a foundational element in establishing soil growth.

This workshop includes a one-hour formal presentation followed by a demonstration of how to make the Bokashi bran, activate effective microorganisms, set up and fill a Bokashi bran bucket to take home for your own garden and get extra practice preparing Bokashi bran for the Canadian Northern Society gardens.

All Workshops located at Camrose Heritage Railway Station and Park, 4407 47 Avenue, Camrose, Alberta.

Register by email to canadiannorthern@telus.net or phone 780-672-3099.

Time: 9:30 am to 1 pm

**Cost: \$35.00 per person includes beverage and morning snack. Need to supply your own lunch.
(Maximum 10 participants)**

Facilitated by Glenys Smith

Each participant will make three loaves of bread: one they can take home, and two will be used for an event at the Railway Station. All ingredients are supplied. While the bread is rising receive information on how to simplify composting which will include a hand-out for your use.



All Workshops located at Camrose Heritage Railway Station and Park, 4407 47 Avenue, Camrose, Alberta.

Register by email to canadiannorthern@telus.net or phone 780-672-3099.

Camrose Heritage Railway Station and Park – 2016 Events

• February 28, 2016 – Night Out at the Oscars

Bring out your inner diva and join us for the 88th Annual Oscar Awards. Wear your fanciest and get your picture taken on the red carpet. Visit our website for more details on this event in January 2016.

• May 14, 2016 – Opening Day for the Station and Site

2016 Station hours of operation:

Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 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 28, 2016 – Plant Sale and Swap (10 am to 5 pm)

Purchase or swap some of the many plants that grow within our station gardens or have been donated by community members. Also available will be various White Elephant gardening pots and yard items. Donations of plants, garden and yard items are gratefully accepted. Carrot cake and beverages available for purchase.

• June 21, 2016 – Aboriginal Days (10 am to 3 pm)

Enjoy performances by “Red Thunder The Next Generation” dance group, storytelling related to aboriginal legends and an art show. Bannock and beverages available for purchase.

• July 9, 2016 – Annual Garden Tour & Victorian Luncheon

Enjoy several local private gardens and experience an incredible homemade luncheon in the historical railway station. The day starts at 9:30 am at the station to receive your map and instructions. Our Victorian Luncheon will be served in the beautifully decorated Station Tea Room and the King George Room following the tour. Pre-registration is required; cost is \$25.00 per person (includes luncheon). Tickets can be purchased at the Camrose Heritage Railway Station.

• July 11 to 16, 2016 – Garden Tour with Victoria Dessert

An interpretive garden tour of the Victory Garden and 12 spectacular flower gardens followed by dessert and tea served in the Station’s King George Room or Tea Room. Individual or large group tours welcome! Tour bookings available for 10 am or 2 pm. Tours need to be booked in advance; cost is \$12.00 per person.

• July 23, 2016 – Tribute to Retired Farmers (2 pm)

Join us as we pay tribute to retired farmers. Come and enjoy a special tour and free beverage in the tea room. Do you have a special story to tell about your life or history? Let us know so it can be shared. Enjoy live western music entertainment.

• July 30, 2016 – Tribute to Prairie Women

Join us at 2 pm to celebrate ‘Women of the Railway’—the story about the first four women hired as railway operators. Take part by wearing a hat or clothing from the 1930s and enjoy the Belles and Whistles Fashion Show. Homemade berry desserts will be featured.

• August 13, 2016 – Founders Day Festival

Exciting events are hosted across the City of Camrose—at the Camrose Heritage Railway Station, enjoy a Garden Party and Chocolate Festival from 1 to 5 pm. Bring your favourite chocolate dessert to enter in the competition. Adults will be entertained by the Station Swing Band in a beautiful garden party atmosphere, so come dressed in garden party attire! Young and old can enjoy the Firebox Festival and ride the Mirror Lake Train with our characters from ‘The Island of Sodor’. Food and beverages available to purchase. For a full schedule, see www.camrosefoundersdays.com.

• September 3, 2016 – Last day of the regular season

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

• Nov. 4, 2016 – White Elephant Christmas Gift Sale and Tea

Enjoy Christmas shopping from 10 am to 5 pm for unique items in our gift shop on opening day. Enjoy tea and scones in our beautiful seasonally decorated Station Tea Room on Nov. 4. The White Elephant Christmas Sale will be open every Friday from November 4 through December 2. Donations of gift items are greatly accepted. Book the station’s Tea Room for your private event or Christmas party.

• December 3, 2016 – Annual Cookie Walk, Tea & Christmas White Elephant Sale (1 to 4:30 pm)

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 items including homemade carrot pudding and loaves. Enjoy tea with seasonal homemade desserts. Purchase special gifts in our Station White Elephant Gift Shop.

• June 11, 2016 – Linear Park Guided Walks, Meeting Creek

Enjoy the Canadian Northern Society Linear Park guided walks along the historic abandoned rail line. Hands-on discovery activities for the whole family. Walks will be held in conjunction with the annual ball tournament in Meeting Creek. Unserviced camping available. For a list of all weekend activities or for more information phone 780-672-3099 or visit our website at www.canadiannorthern.ca

• August 21, 2016 – Prairie Fun Days at Meeting Creek Station

Enjoy tours of the station and elevator at Meeting Creek, Alberta. Ride the Track Car, take guided or self-guided nature walks along Linear Park Trails, enjoy homemade pie and many children’s activities. Horse and wagon rides for all ages will be available. Lunch for purchase from 11 am to 3 pm. For more information visit www.facebook.com/PrairieFunDays.

**Follow us on Facebook or visit
www.canadiannorthern.ca**