



the CANORA CHRONICLE

"Capturing history – Building community"

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Canadian Northern General Meeting will be held on April 23 at 2 pm at the Camrose Station. All interested members are welcome to attend.

CAMROSE STATION WORK BEE

April 19 at 9 am | Clean-up of the outside buildings and reorganizing artifacts and displays. Everyone is welcome to join in.

BIG VALLEY SPRING CLEAN-UP

*Sunday, May 8 - 10:00 am
Lunch supplied for volunteers.*

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

MEETING CREEK PRAIRIE FUN DAYS

August 28, 2016 - 10 am to 4:30 pm

As part of Prairie Fun Days and Open Farm Days join in and *Celebrate Our Earth Day* with the whole family. Enjoy tours of the station and elevator at Meeting Creek, Alberta. Ride the track car, take guided or self-guided nature walks along the linear park trails, enjoy homemade pie and many children's activities. Horse and wagon rides for all ages will be available. Join in on story time and dance for all ages. Adults are invited to attend "Connecting to This Land" talk in the Meeting Creek Community Hall. For more information visit our website at www.canadiannorthern.ca.



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

Acknowledgements

- Thank you for cash donations received with annual memberships: Les Kozma of Edmonton, AB, Gerry Piro of Camrose, AB, a memorial donation from Jeannette Schandl in memory of Joseph Schandl of Camrose, AB, and Cec and Ralph Atkinson of Sherwood Park, AB. Thank you to Steve and Peggy Shuman of Camrose, AB, Richard A. Gibbons of North Battleford, SK, Carl Leaman of Westport, CT, and Shawn and Karen Smith of Camrose, AB, for their generous donations to the society.
- Thank you to Michael Westren of Calgary, AB, Dean and Lorrie Tiegs of Edmonton, AB, James Harte of McBride, BC, Les and Donna Langille of Stettler, AB, J.F. Munsey of Edmonton, AB, Wolf Kirchmeir of Blind River, ON, James Lanigan of Calgary, AB, and Clayton Jones of Surrey, BC, for their generous cash donations.
- Sincere thanks to Chuck and Lynn Bohi of White River Junction, VT, Lois Campbell of Camrose, AB, Larry Stone of Airdrie, AB, Florence Johnston of Big Valley, AB, William Griffiths of Salt Spring Island, BC, Tim Mugford of Lethbridge, AB, Alice-Faye Watts of Big Valley, AB, and Donald Wilson of Regina, SK, for donations received with their membership renewals.
- Thank you to The Gwyn Morgan and Patricia Trottier Foundation for the generous annual cash donation towards our society infrastructure.
- Welcome a new member, James Edgson of Vernon, BC, to the society.
- Thank you to the late Donald McCartney of Toronto, ON, for the bequest left to the Canadian Northern Society.

We sincerely appreciate the continued support—year after year—of these fine supporters.

MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE SOCIETY—IN MEMORIAM:

Don Kent of Big Valley, AB, and Ernie Ottewell of Revelstoke, BC.

SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE

Attached is a donation with my annual membership renewal. You are doing a great job!! – Richard Gibbons, North Battleford.

*Hello to all at the Canadian Northern Society. Happy New Year to all, and enclosed please find my membership renewal. Thanks to Dean and Lorrie Tiegs for the continued production of The Canora Chronicle and for the personal acknowledgement. I am amazed at how much you accomplish. Sincerely Rae. (Dr. R.B. Fleming, author of *The Railway King of Canada* and a Canadian Northern Society Member).*

CAMROSE HAPPENINGS

The December 2015 Cookie Walk and Tea was a great success. Cookie sales and gift shop sales through November totalled \$3000, which partially paid for the new kitchen sanitizer. The Battle River Community Foundation \$2700 grant paid for the remainder of the cost. A giant thank-you goes out to everyone who assisted with the teas, gift shop and Cookie Walk. Sincere thanks to the Community Foundation for their generous grant. We are pleased to again host their annual barbecue on May 11.

January and February were very busy months as they are dedicated to applying for grants and updating programs. Without the funds from successful grant applications we could not continue to maintain the station and its programs.

Thank you to Carol Roy and Sharon Ofrim who planned, advertised, made desserts and delivered a St. Patrick's Day Tea. Judging by the joyful atmosphere and conversations a good time was had by all. Thank you to Donny Loewen, Carol Rawson and Bruce Smith for helping during the tea.

Carol Roy helped facilitate a 'Coffee and Creations Guided Art Lesson' presented by Kris Ponto on March 22. Twenty people came and took home their own art creation. The Tea Room was a great venue for this event, and our amazing pumpkin cinnamon buns were enjoyed by all.

The station was rented for two days again this year by Light House News who have booked three weekends a year for the next three years. These bookings are very convenient for us as they only require opening and closing of the station. We have several more private bookings in the coming months including a poetry workshop.

The Camrose Station Work Bee to clean and open up the outside buildings will be on April 19 starting at 9 am. However, we are encouraging people to come when they have an hour or two any day of the week. We have initiated a Drop-In Tuesday for people

to come for coffee and are encouraged to stay an hour or two to help with projects around the station. Carol Rawson and Garry Middleton come Tuesdays, and we appreciate all they do. Garry Middleton, Donny Loewen and Bruce Smith are organized for upcoming maintenance and restoration projects for Camrose and Meeting Creek. Steve Shuman who helped set up the first Morgan Garden Railway has offered to help rebuild some parts of the garden this season. Thank you to Bruce Smith, who has all the buildings cleaned and repaired.

On March 5, Bruce Smith and Donny Loewen attended the Buzy Bee Volunteer Banquet in Tofield. Each year they invite two of our volunteers to a wonderful roast beef dinner and present us with items they have collected throughout the year at their thrift shop.

Grasslands Project Update

Three excellent workshops on Organic Agriculture and Gardening were held over the last two months at the station and were all well attended. As a result of the Bokashi Workshop given by Bernice Kadatz and the paper article describing the grasslands restoration project at Meeting Creek we are able to welcome five new volunteers to assist with grassland work bees: Michele Ratz, Judith Batisty, Sandra Doroza, Linda Petrowski and Fran Snyder.

We have set tentative dates for work bees for Meeting Creek. Lunch will be supplied. Please contact the Camrose Station for confirmation on dates in the coming weeks.

- April 16 at 10 am - Cutting up dead-fall cleanup.
- May 7 or 14 - Grid development and applying of amendments into bored holes on grassland.
- June 4 - Planting of wild flowers and native grass plugs dependent upon the root development of the plugs that I will be starting in our green house.

Thank you again to Bernice Kadatz, who continues to inspire and teach new and unique modalities for agriculture and guide the Meeting Creek project. She spent a month on Maui in January evaluating organic agricultural principles and methods she introduced in 2015 that have had excellent results and are transferable to Alberta agriculture. I was invited to a land stewardship workshop put on by the county on March 23. It was very informative and an opportunity for good networking. The Canadian Northern Society is part of the Eco-tourism Committee organized by the county to promote tourism through county partnerships. Bernice and I are giving a presentation on the Meeting Creek linear park project at the Fish and Game meeting on April 13. I attended their annual banquet this winter, and their mandate this year is conservation.



School Programs

We are thankful to Eleanor White, who has established our credibility with the local schools from her past years of preparing and teaching our school programs. Eleanor has retired, and Karen Smith and I will be facilitating the programs this spring. We have a new program this year in Meeting Creek called 'Save the Earth Day' which will be held on June 15. This new curriculum-based program has been developed, and we are hoping that surrounding schools will consider this hands-on program for their Grade 4 and 5's. We have started to receive bookings for the Camrose School programs and need volunteers for both programs. Our first kindergarten program is May 13, and the station opens for the 2016 season on May 14.

I was speaking to an acquaintance who has managed a small museum in the area for many years, regarding frequent change in settings such as ours. She said to me, "Welcome to the museum world." Although we are not technically a museum we are a historic site, and we all share the same needs as it relates to hiring. Problems arise due to wages and the part-time nature of the job. Management of these small historic venues requires special dedicated people with specific qualifications.

Ken Flater resigned from the station coordinator position in February. We thank him for the work he did while with us and wish him well in his future endeavours.

An interview committee consisting of three board members interviewed five wonderful candidates for the management position in March. We look forward to working with our new station manager, Doug Roper, who started on March 29. Doug has

years of experience as a locomotive engineer and brakeman and has held positions working with volunteers and fundraising. We are excited to work with his unique skill set, and we welcome him to the society.

Thank you to the following:

- Memorial donation of \$100 from Robbie O’Riordan in memory of her dog Cindy who visited the station and is remembered fondly. Thank you to Robbie for delivering school packages to the Clearview Schools as well.
- \$500 donation from the Camrose Thrift Shop and \$500 from the Women of the Moose for our children’s programs.
- City of Camrose for its grant for our 2016 Camrose operations.
- \$100 memorial donation from Carol Roy in memory of her husband, Murray, who was a long-time volunteer at the station.
- Grants from Camrose County for

school programs and Meeting Creek restoration.

- Gladys Douglas for making the gingerbread dough for the upcoming kindergarten programs.
- Kurt Bagdan for researching the Grade 4 and 5 curriculums so I could update all the school programs.
- Loreen Bergstrom for delivering school program information to area schools.
- Karen Smith for a Mixmaster for our kitchen.
- Doreen Haugen for donations of china and items for our gift shop.
- Duane Riske for the donation of a cake saver.
- Garry Middleton and Karen Smith for helping organize the station computer files.
- Thank you to Ron Ford, a new volunteer at the station, who is helping with woodworking projects and horticultural tasks.

- Glenys Smith

May 28 - 10 am to 5 pm
Plant Sale and Swap

June 21 - 10 am to 3 pm
Aboriginal Days

July 9 - 9:30 am
Garden Tour and Luncheon

July 23 - 2 pm
Tribute to Retired Farmers



Photos © S.I. Smith

Thanks to Shawn Smith and Liam (left) and Adam Smith (right) of Camrose, AB, who were on-site on March 25 for their weekly checks of the Meeting Creek station and elevator site.

MEETING CREEK PRESERVATION UPDATE

We have made a request to the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation to assist us with evaluating the method, materials, and cost to replace the shingles on the roof of the station. The project could potentially begin in 2017, perhaps 2018 depending upon funding. As previously reported in the *Chronicle*, we were able to make temporary repairs to the leak near the chimney last summer which seems to be working for now. At the Alberta Pacific Grain Elevator, we have had several loose tin siding sections removed by wind. We are looking to rent a Skyjack this summer to provide temporary repairs. Lastly, the contractor will be returning in spring to complete the painting of the street-side fence.

A huge thank-you to Don Gillespie and the Alberta Prairie crew led by Jim Potter, who helped clean up the brush from the tree trimming and removal that we conducted this past winter. We pruned back several carragana and aspen trees that had just grown too far. There are still several repair projects required around the Meeting Creek depot including repairs to the interior ceiling on the second floor that was damaged by the roof leaks in 2014 and 2015, storm window glass replacement and painting, continued maintenance of concrete parging, and general duties. Anyone interested should call S.I. Smith at 780 608 0183. There are similar small projects required to be completed at the grain elevator.

We are hopeful that this summer we can assist the Meeting Creek Recreation Association with the relocation of the washrooms to the ballpark, where they can be better used by the community at large.

OSCAR NIGHT AT THE CAMROSE STATION

February 28 was Oscar Night at the Camrose Station. It was a fun night thanks to the amazing decorations and planning by Eleanor White. Although we did not have a big crowd, all who came enjoyed it. We want to thank all who attended and took part: Diana Nickel was Audrey Hepburn (thanks for bringing snacks), Barb McDonald was Julie Andrews (thanks for the wonderful punch), Ed Kuzalik was Sylvester Stallone and Glenys Smith was Doris Day. Thank you to Ed and Eleanor for being a great MCs. Thank you to Cathie Bartlett, Carol Roy, Eleanor White and Sharon Ofrim for decorating. Thank you to Lorrie Tiegs, our society president, who came from Edmonton to take the photos on the Red Carpet. Thank you to Garry Middleton for setting up the TV and to Karen Smith for her advance work in coordinating to get the Oscars shown on our large-screen TV. Thanks to Bruce Smith for helping with set-up, take-down and clean-up.



Masters of Ceremonies, Ed Kuzalik and Eleanor White.



Thanks to Diana Nickel who took tickets at the door, brought snacks for the event and played the character of Audrey Hepburn.

BIG VALLEY NEWS

The annual spring clean-up for the Big Valley Station will be May 8 starting at 10 am. Lunch will be provided for volunteers. The station meeting room continues to be well utilized weekly by the Big Valley Art Society. It has also been used lately by the Health Unit and Stats Canada for training. As always it's good to see the room being used.

Thank you to Eddie Funicane for his help with opening and closing the station for Alberta Prairie's trips and when he sees people around. Thanks for your community spirit and the help.

I've submitted a grant application to Alberta Historical Resources to have a stability study done on the round-house area. If approved we will begin the process of determining if we will have to do any stabilization work around the area. I've also submitted a grant application to help fund our printing costs for brochures.

The station is in good shape for our summer season. Wayne and Phyllis Garrison will be returning with their RV to stay at the station this summer. In trade for a parking spot they look after most of the yard work and cleaning. They did an amazing job with flower beds last year, and I'm looking forward to seeing what they'll do this summer.

August 1 is the annual Alberta Prairie Railway Days trip.



Camrose Station Director, Glenys Smith in character of Doris Day on the Red Carpet.



Volunteer Mae Uhrich who organizes our White Elephant Gift Shop.

This year Kelly Gillespie and I are planning to step it up a notch. As of now I'm scheduled as conductor for the trip. I'd like the Canadian Northern Society to be able to offer walking tours as part of the day and was wondering if anyone would be able to volunteer some time for this? It would only be one or two tours while the train is in. I'd like to have our velocipede and my hand car on display. Please be in touch if you are able to help out at this community event by emailing to: graydonrich@gmail.com.

Have a great spring!

~ Rich 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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