

# THE CANORA CHRONICLE

*"Preserving Railway Heritage for Community and Economic Benefits"*



Canadian Northern Society  
P.O. Box 1174, Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X2  
Dominion of Canada  
Phone: (780) 672-3099 E-mail: [northernsociety@incentre.net](mailto:northernsociety@incentre.net)  
[www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)

Volume 19, Number 2, July 2006

## Canadian Railway Hall of Fame Pavilion Opens in Big Valley

Thanks to the leadership of Harry Stuber, the hard work of several local volunteers including Rick Kargaard, Shawn Smith, Bruce Smith, Curly Reischman, Don Rowe, Dan Clark, and the generous support of our corporate sponsors, notably Windwood Signs in Camrose, the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame Pavilion was opened in Big Valley on Saturday, May 27. Representing Her Majesty's Government in Alberta was the Hon. Shirley McLellan, Deputy Premier of the Province and local Member of the Legislative Assembly. We were also honoured to have Mr. Paul Clark, Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications at Canadian Pacific Railway, in attendance. Both Ms. McLellan and Mr. Clark were extremely impressed with the effort behind the Hall of Fame Pavilion, and delivered excellent remarks to the assembled group who attended.

Les Kozma, Canadian Northern Society President was the Master of Ceremonies for the event which included

the official induction of Craigellachie—site of the famous Last Spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway—into the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame. In his remarks, Les acknowledged the excellent and hard work of Lorrie and Dean Tiegs who have contributed significantly to the development of the Hall of Fame over the years. Specifically, Lorrie developed the logo for the Hall of Fame, and Dean served as its first webmaster.

Cutting the ribbon to officially open the Pavilion were Ms. McLellan, Mr. Clark, Mr. Harry Stuber representing our society and the Village of Big Valley, and Mr. Don Gillespie of Alberta Prairie.

Thank you to Bob Willis at Alberta Prairie Railway Excursions for loaning the sound system for the day, and again for all who made the Pavilion possible. It is now a "work



*Canadian Railway Hall of Fame Pavilion, Big Valley, AB May 27, 2006.*

in progress"—it will be added to and improved over time, while it serves as an excellent addition to Big Valley's collection of historical sites.

For further information on the Hall of Fame Pavilion opening, check out the newly relaunched Canadian Railway Hall of Fame website at [www.railcan.ca](http://www.railcan.ca).

On behalf of the Canadian Northern Society and the Big Valley Historical Society, it is important that we recognize the role and assistance of our volunteers who help maintain the station, roundhouse, who show up for train runs, and who simply keep the village looking great! You know who you are. Give yourself a great pat on the back. Your contribution to the community is greatly appreciated.

## Camrose Highlights

Penny Nelson is back at the station this year as the summer SCAP student. Jessie Asel is also returning as our STEP student. She will start her six-week grant period on July 4. Jessie has worked extra time for us as we have had a very busy May and June. We realize we need two students full time through the summer and will be advocating for these positions this winter. What a blessing it has been to have these two girls return.

We have had a great time with the children who took part in school and kindergarten programs. Our largest class was 32 children from New Serepta for a field day. Carol Rawson facilitated the program along with other volunteers. A special thanks to Anna Mae Domenko, Bill and Gladys Douglas, Murray and Carol Roy, Barb Nixen, Leslie Stoddart, Kurt Bagdan, Dorothy Lysons, Ray Johnson, Lisa Reed and Ann Reiten. The children and the parent volunteers and our own truly do create an experience that helps to build community assets thus understanding between generations.

The station and grounds have been booked for group events such as workshops, parties, and picnics. The tearoom has had inconsistent attendance dependent on other activities in the community. The noticeable difference is the increase in tourists. The Icelandic Tribute was well attended. Penny created a wonderful display with interpretive information on Iceland. The artifacts displayed belonged to Barb Anderson's family. Alexa Anderson presented a monologue as her great aunt wearing her aunt's original Icelandic costume. The family came early for the family reunion to attend the day. Professor Ingibergsson read poetry and talked about Iceland. All enjoyed the Icelandic food served in the Tearoom. Lisa is now busy coordinating the Garden Party on July 8.

Several special projects are underway, tentative or have been completed:

- 1) Building of the walkway, pergola and seat trellis to the Historic Station Garden (funded by the Battle River Community Foundation).
- 2) Development of the offices upstairs in the station. Development of the gift shop, boardroom and King George Room downstairs in the living quarters. The consultants who use the offices are here only on occasion which helps keep the integrity of the station. The society now has its office upstairs, freeing the library and archives for the purpose they were meant.
- 3) Designing and building of a picnic shelter on site to be used for summer events and winter storage (lottery funding).
- 4) Building of wooden garbage can enclosures.
- 5) Completion of roof restoration of tool shed (Wild Rose Antique Collector's Funding).

6) Wood will soon be ordered for the platform restoration.

7) Addition of a prairie grass and wildflower garden as an extension of the caragana hedge. (CN supplied the old ties for this project.)

The Historic Station Garden has been completed and the interpretive sign erected.

I would like to thank the following people for their contributions of time, talent, money, in-kind items and labour:

- Shawn Smith for his proofing of the station garden sign, the telegraph boy and tie puller interpretive signs and the endless job of paying the bills.
- Murray and Carol Roy for the building of the seat trellis and the seat cushions.
- Murray Roy for the design and construction of the picnic shelter. Bruce Smith, Bill Douglas and Jonsey for their help with construction.
- Bruce Smith and Bill Douglas for the building of the walkway and pergola.
- Ferg Kearns for painting the trellis seat.
- Carol Roy for decorating and donations to the King George Room.
- Don Rawe for building the wooden garbage holders.
- Carol Roy, Helen Kitchen, Elsie Thompson, Freida Ness, Robbie O'Riordan for the donation of white elephant table items.
- Dorothy Lysons, Robbie O'Riordan for donation of baking supplies.
- Kate Pasula and Alma Falk for donations of \$100 each.
- Stephanie Olsen and Peggy Shuman for donations of \$100 worth of planter bedding plants, dress up items, craft supplies and bubbles for the kindergarten program.
- Gwyn Morgan for his donation of \$5000.
- Robbie O'Riordan for donation of inside plants and miscellaneous items.
- Gladys Douglas for donation of time to make 7 double batches of gingerbread for the children's programs.
- Shawn Smith for donations of office furniture and many other items such as laminator, boardroom table and chairs, coffee maker.
- Bruce and Glenys Smith for donation of curtains, blinds, rugs, cabinets, pictures, appliances for the kitchen, plants, kitchen table.
- Glenys Smith for donation of bedding plants and garden supplies.
- All the women who help bake behind the scenes the items to keep us going especially Dorothy and Carol.
- Ann Reiten for the donation of pork.
- Murray and Carol Roy for making the soup broths.
- Carlee and Kalynn Dobos, Rebecca and

Dominique Fleury, Alexa Anderson for volunteering in the tearoom.

- Lorrie and Dean Tieg for the donation of two wooden benches for the station grounds.
- Camrose Co-op for the donation of all the ingredients to make the food for the Old Fashioned Garden Party.

Our next summer event is the Old Fashioned Garden Party and Chocolate Festival on July 8. Thank you to Lisa for the marketing and work to plan this event. We look forward to a grand time with a Circus Train Theme this year. Morley Riske is again coordinating the bands. These bands put in hours of practice for the events they volunteer for. They will be back again for the War Years Tribute on August 5. Don't forget the Heather Brae tribute on July 22. A piper will play at 2 pm. The Cadet Pipe Band will be playing at the station on August 3 at 1 pm. This band consists of members from across Canada.

Penny is finished on August 9 so we will be in need of volunteers for Founder's Day on August 19 and Ukrainian Day August 26.

The Meeting Creek Station and Camrose Railway Station are going to be receiving the status of 'Museum' as we applied for in the new affirmation program. This was a lengthy process that will not have to be repeated for five years.

David Ofram has indicated the kitchen extension should be commenced in September. This is wonderful news as it is very much a need. Rob Stagg will be replacing the upstairs windows in the station in the fall with the donated money from Bruce, Glenys and Bertha Smith

Have a wonderful summer.

*Glenys Smith*

## Casino Success

The Canadian Northern Society would like to sincerely thank all of those who volunteered for the recent casino held in Red Deer. Thank you to Lloyd Duncan for the advice and assistance, Harry and Fran Stuber, Lorne Parkin, Karen Kargaard, Don Saar, Jack Webster, Kathy Webster, Donna Clark, Sharon Duncan, Joanne Hamilton, Lynne Gjaltema, Bill Smillie, Shirley Vols, Thresa Greig, Yvette Cassidy, Brenda Meyers, Anne Muhlbach, Shawn Smith, and Donna Langille. Also thank you to Carol and Ted Rawson of Camrose. The casino raised over \$28,000 that will be used in our on-going operations, the Hall of Fame pavilion at Big Valley

and the kitchen addition at the Camrose station.

The Canadian Northern Society along with the Big Valley Historical Society maintains and operates the heritage railway station in Big Valley and looks after the railway roundhouse interpretive centre. It is also developing the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame Pavilion. We greatly appreciate the support of our Big Valley volunteers.

*Harry Stuber, Canadian Northern Society*

## Welcome New Members

The society would like to welcome new members, Mr. Fred G. Walker of North Battleford, SK, and Windwood Signs and Graphics of Camrose, AB. ***Thank you for your support!***

## Meeting Creek

Imagine the thoughts of the pioneers who first encountered the Meeting Creek valley. Many of us at the Canadian Northern Society have always enjoyed the simple beauty of the Meeting Creek valley. The creek meanders through the valley of pastureland, much of which is still virgin soil. You may have had the opportunity to take the train through this valley when the Railiner was still running or when Alberta Prairie ran excursion trains from Stettler north to Donalda and Meeting Creek. Wild flowers such as blazing star and lupine still grow along the right of way. Saskatoons and wild raspberries still are quite profuse in their season. Songbirds build their nests in the undisturbed area along the old Canadian Northern roadbed.

In the hamlet of Meeting Creek of course, our Canadian Northern Society has preserved the heritage railway station and the Alberta Pacific Grain elevator. The Third Class Canadian Northern depot is one of the few remaining on their original sites in western Canada. The elevator is a prize with its original pump engine.

On April 29, the Canadian Northern Society conducted its annual general meeting in the outdoor gazebo at our Meeting Creek Park. A dedicated group of volunteers participated in a site clean up prior to and following the meeting. Re-elected to the Society executive were President Les Kozma, Vice President Brent Cheek, Secretary Dean Tieg, and Treasurer Shawn I. Smith. Our Board of Directors welcomed Don Rowe, while the committee chairs of the society remain the same.

*continued on page 4*

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to Donna Langille (Tri-L Construction) of Red Willow for a cash donation and membership renewal.

Sincere thanks for our newest member, Mr. Walker of North Battleford, SK, for his cash donation.

Thank you to Gwyn Morgan and Pat Trottier for their very generous cash donation to the society that will be used towards the kitchen addition to our Camrose railway station.

Thank you very much to Windwood Signs and Graphics of Camrose for their very generous donation to the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame Pavilion at Big Valley. Morris Henderson, General Manager of Windwood, kindly donated the "Canadian Northern Canadian Railway Hall of Fame Pavilion" signage for our centre, as well as a discount on the interpretive signs worth in excess of \$3400. Mr Henderson's and Windwood's support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Mrs. Alma Falk of Camrose for her kind cash donation.

Thank you to our Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. LeRoy Johnson, for again supporting us, and by supporting the Alberta Museums Association's operational grant assistance of \$1500 recently received by the society. This grant is used towards utilities at the three sites and is an important funding source for us. The society acknowledges the support of the Alberta Museums Association and Alberta Lotteries as well.



*The society would like to wish long time member and supporter N. F. Corness a very Happy 80th Birthday!*

The exercise during history class one day was for each of the students to list whom they considered to be the twelve greatest Canadians. After half an hour, everyone had turned in their papers except Irwin, who was still scratching his head and thinking furiously. "What's up?" asked the teacher. "Can't you come up with twelve great Canadians?"

"I've got all but one," the student explained hastily. "It's the quarterback I can't decide on."

## Meeting Creek Continued



*Meeting Creek Station, Grounds and Elevator.*

### **Elevator:**

- Driveway approaches to begin replacement – (remove, replace – one at a time).
- Replace elevator to office walkway.
- Continuous clean up of elevator inside.
- Continuous trimming of grass and growth around elevator.

### **Station:**

- Storm window modification for living room street side window (needs to be built up to fit window).
- Repairs to waiting room storm window (broke by flying weedeater rock!)
- Exterior painting trim (contractor??)
- Replace sidewalk planking where required.
- Plane bottom of waiting room door.
- Plane bottom of coal shed doors.
- Continuous interior cleaning.
- Continuous trimming of grass and weeds around station.
- Replace yard fence with traditional picket fence.
- Tree planting on streetside.
- Repaint second storey storm windows.

### **Train Order Signal:**

- Rebuild train order signal to steel mast.

*If you are able to help with any of the above projects, please contact Shawn Smith at (780) 672-5782. It takes a great amount of time and effort to keep our stations maintained. Any assistance is so greatly appreciated.*

## About The Chronicle

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

The editors may be contacted through the Canadian Northern headquarters (see page 1) or directly at their home:

Dean and Lorrie Tiegs

7518 186A Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5T 6A6

Phone: (780) 484-4038

secretary@canadiannorthern.ca / www.canadiannorthern.ca