



# THE CANORA CHRONICLE

Canadian Northern Society—Camrose, Meeting Creek, and Big Valley, Alberta

Phone: (780) 672-3099 • E-mail: [canadiannorthern@telus.net](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.net) • [www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)

Volume 22, Number 3, September 2009

## Board Members Sought

*Please keep in mind that the Canadian Northern Society is constantly looking for fresh ideas, new approaches, and in-short the contributions and talents of those who have an interest or passion in the society's newly minted mission:*

*"Building Community Through Heritage Preservation"*

*You do not have to be a railroader or even have a latent interest in railways. Our organization is at first a community organization. While railway- and agricultural-related heritage remains a consistent theme and focus, our Camrose Railway Park site is proof that themed heritage sites can indeed develop into valued community centres.*

*Have you ever wished to contribute to the overall administration or management of an organization or charity? The Canadian Northern Society is seeking the time and talents (estimate minimum of 3 days per year of volunteer commitment) to serve on our Board of Directors. Please consider this excellent opportunity.*

*If interested contact Managing Director, Janine Carroll at 780-672-3099 or email to [canadiannorthern@telus.net](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.net).*

## Historic CN Locomotive Wheel

*Fort Saskatchewan Record Newspaper, June 22, 2009*

Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, June 22, 2009—CN has donated a former steam locomotive wheel to the City of Fort Saskatchewan, symbolizing its shared history in the development of the region.

CN officially presented the chrome-plated artifact today in a ceremony outside the former 1905 railway station in Fort Saskatchewan.

Tracy Miller, Alberta General Manager for CN, said the wheel was displayed for about 45 years at the railway's downtown Edmonton office building. He said when CN relocated to new offices last year, the wheel needed to move—and found an appropriate home in Fort Saskatchewan.

"CN's predecessor Canadian Northern Railway built its mainline through Fort Saskatchewan in 1905, allowing the community to grow with new settlers and new business. The railway also helped sow the seeds of future industrial development in the area," Miller said.

"Today, the Fort Saskatchewan region and its significant industrial customer base remains critical to our company and our plans for the future."

The wheel, which was reconditioned by the City of Fort Saskatchewan and installed on a new base, was once part of CN "Mikado"-class steam locomotive No. 3805. Built by the Canadian Locomotive Company in 1936, No. 3805 and its five sisters were specially designed to operate using the hard, high-alkaline water common on the Prairies.

These locomotives were used across Western Canada until the late 1950s, when they were replaced by diesel-electrics. CN preserved and reconditioned one of the main driving wheels from No. 3805 as a monument to the steam era.

Fort Saskatchewan Mayor Jim Sheasgreen thanked CN for its generous donation, saying the wheel is an important historic addition to displays that include a former CN caboose and the CN station, which was designated as a heritage building by the Province of Alberta in 2008. The station is today used by the Fort Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

"Today is a great day for Fort Saskatchewan and the Historical Society. We are so proud to be connected with this piece of Alberta's heritage and I think we have found the perfect home for the wheel here in our city," stated Mayor Sheasgreen.

---

The locomotive that the wheel came from, 3805, was one of the few "Mikado" type locomotives specially designed for the "bad water district" on the Touchwood Subdivision between Melville and Rivers, Saskatchewan. Canadian Northern Society member Norman F. Corness was instrumental in its preservation.

## Alberta Prairie '20th Anniversary of Steam' Celebration

A group of veteran railroaders together with other worthy invitees were the special guests of both Alberta Prairie Railway and your Canadian Northern Society over the August long-weekend, as part of the Village of Big Valley's Homecoming celebration.

Thanks to the generosity of President Don Gillespie, General Manager Bob Willis, and the entire Alberta Prairie organization, our special invitees along with their guests were treated to a wonderful trip behind ex-CN steam locomotive 6060 from Stettler to Big Valley and return aboard the *Tracy*—a historic Canadian Pacific "T-series" sleeping car that was specially reserved for this group. "It's been twenty years since the Central Western Railway started the steam excursions on the old Stettler Subdivision that are now successfully operated by Alberta Prairie," said Canadian Northern Society Director Leslie S. Kozma, who acted as official photographer for the event. "This event was an opportunity for Alberta Prairie not only to celebrate this significant anniversary of steam excursion service, but also to salute the contributions of some fine railway veterans—the majority with strong ties to the Stettler Subdivision and to both Central Western and Alberta Prairie's operations."

In addition to Les, Canadian Northern Society members Dean Tiegs and Russ and Kathy Evans helped out as volunteer hosts. Society Treasurer S.I. Smith also served as a host on behalf of Alberta Prairie. Our special guests included Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dixon of the Alberta Railway Museum in Edmonton, and long-time Canadian Northern Society members Ron Bailey and his wife Marion of Edmonton, and their son Grant of Vancouver. Ron retired as Chief Engineer for CN's Mountain Region and along with recently-inducted Railway Hall of Famer Jimmy Munsey (who also



Alberta Prairie General Manager Don Gillespie punches tickets.

attended), was instrumental in obtaining regulatory authority to have the 6060 first come to Stettler back in 1989 to begin what has become the Alberta Prairie legacy. It was also great to see society-supporter Norman Corness, who also was involved in the initial start-up of steam operations on the Stettler Subdivision, and is featured in the society's *Along These Lines* publications. Being an avid collector, Norm presented Don Gillespie with a number of Central Western and Alberta Prairie caps and artifacts used over the years—showing that this little operation really has developed a history of its own!

"We had railway royalty here today in Big Valley," remarked Dean Tiegs. "Ron Bailey, Tony Rossi, Jim McQuarrie, Walter Kittler, and Jimmy Munsey all have had stations named in their honour on CN's network in

western Canada over the last number of years. And Grant Bailey has a station named for him on the CP Ottawa Valley route at North Bay—a unique father and son honour! This is indeed a highly respected group of railroaders!"

In addition to Walter, we also were honoured to have local railway veteran running trades employees Jim Mackenzie, Donnie Ball, and Hubert Schmidt of Mirror, as well as the Hanna contingent of Gus Annas, Don Millar, Emerson "Red" Robinson, and Jack Machell in attendance. "Don Gillespie and I were particularly pleased to see Don Millar, Jack Machell, and Jim Mackenzie

again," remarked S.I. Smith. "These gentlemen have been 'retired' from Alberta Prairie service for awhile now and it was great to see them have an opportunity to share stories with not only their old colleagues but also with former officers like Stan Chappell, Butch Whiteman and Jimmy Munsey as well."

On board the train, guests were treated to some exclusive special entertainment in Alberta Prairie's "Lone Star Saloon" that included Walter Kittler reciting his signature poetry and tales. After dinner at Big Valley, Les Kozma provided an interpretive talk at the Big Valley Roundhouse site on the history of the railway in the region that was well received by those who attended. Les does a fine job of delivering these types of talks with his extensive historical knowledge, and we hope that in the future, we can schedule



©L. Kozma

*Top Photo: Mountain type Engine 6060 stands ready to pull the northbound passenger train out of Big Valley.*

*Bottom Photo: Some of the “railway royalty” who enjoyed the special excursion.*

some similar interpretive talks at special events sponsored by the society.

Both Ron Bailey, whose father was a locomotive engineer on the Canadian Northern, and Butch Whiteman, whose grandfather and several uncles worked for the Canadian Northern Railway at Dauphin, provided a living link to the pioneer railway at the event. “Having the 6060 pull the train, and sharing the celebration with folks who have such a tie with not only Alberta Prairie’s history but in fact the history of the old Canadian Northern Railway was very fitting,” said Les Kozma. “Both Alberta Prairie and the Canadian Northern Society have accomplished a great deal over the past twenty years—it truly is incredible. Today I am proud to say that I have been be a part of it.”

As Kelly Gillespie’s steady hand on 6060’s throttle pulled northbound through Warden on the return trip, the ladies of our special group aboard were each provided with a beautiful red rose courtesy of Alberta Prairie Railway. In addition, complementary copies of the society’s *Along These Lines* history book were provided to the guests. Both gifts were well-received.

Sincere thanks are again in order to Alberta Prairie for making this event happen. “There were a group of retired railroaders and their guests who got off the train at Stettler very happy tonight,” remarked S.I. Smith at the safe and successful conclusion to the day. “What a classy, and wonderful way to celebrate 20 years of history!”



©L. Kozma

# Meeting Creek Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 3, 12 noon - 5 p.m.

This is our 2nd annual celebration. Last year the event was well attended and enjoyed by everyone! It's a great family event with many children's games and activities planned as well as entertainment and wagon rides.

If you would like to volunteer please contact *Janine Carroll* at 780-672-3099  
or email to *canadiannorthern@telus.net*.

## Big Valley Thank-Yous

We have had a very busy summer with homecoming and the Alberta Prairie trains arriving at our station.

I am very proud of all the volunteers who have done everything from cleaning, painting, gardening and tree trimming.

Many thanks go to Andy and Penni Clarke, Rod Couturier, Phylis Garrison, Margaret Lone, Vi Milton,

John and Lynone Palmer, Art and Ann Tizzard, Shirley Vols, Alice-Faye Watts, Curt and Connie Watts and Russ Evans.

I would especially like to thank Donna Clark who is always there to help and takes care of the station in my absence.

Volunteers are so important in keeping this station in our

community. Without time given from the many volunteers, places such as the station and roundhouse interpretive centre will not be around for future generations.

Thanks again to all the people who donate their time to help this cause.

*Kathy Evans*

## A Family Tradition: An Entire Train Crew All Related

This photo, taken in Dauphin, Manitoba, in 1913 was of a crew that consisted entirely of brothers-in-law.

In the engine was Fireman Jim Troyer who had married Ethyl Whiteman.

Toward the back on left is Headend Trainman Jim (Scottie) Mackie who married Alice Whiteman.

Next is Ernie Whiteman who was a clerk and called the crew.

In the buffalo coat is Engineer William Whiteman (my grandfather).

The tall man next to him is Conductor Randolph Penman who married Margaret Whiteman.

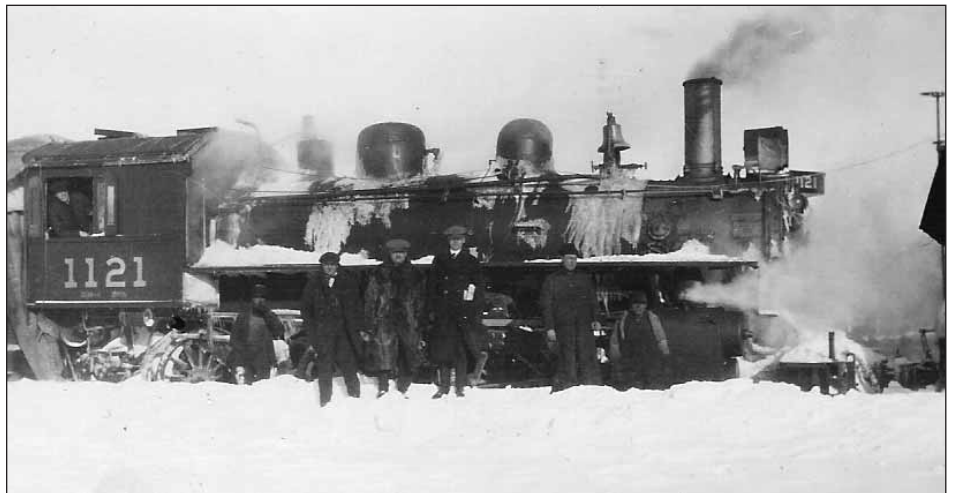
Next is Fred Musgrove, who was the dispatcher and cousin of Ouray Harvey.

On extreme right is Tailend Trainman Ouray Harvey who married Christina (Teenie) Whiteman.

My granddad (William) had six sons, all of which hired on the railway at one time or another with three of them making it their life-long jobs (my dad included). Of course I stayed with the railway until I retired and my daughter Cathy is making it her career.

Ouray Harvey's son Bev and his grandson both made their careers on CN and both are now retired as well. They are both living in Saskatoon today.

*Butch Whiteman, Edmonton, AB*



# A Busy Summer in Camrose

It has now been one full year that I have been with the station—a good year for me, and I hope for everyone involved. I know now what Glenys meant when many times last winter she said to me, “get it done now: it gets too busy once the station opens.” The season, though short, certainly is a whirlwind of activity and celebration.

The thank-you list is very long! Beginning with the excellent local media coverage including the *Camrose Booster*, *Canadian*, *Morning News* and *Community Events Magazine*; CFCW and CamFM; many websites such as the Chamber of Commerce, City of Camrose, Tourism Alberta and Camrose; Boomtown Trail. Our many special events—Celebrating First Nations, Chocolate Festival, Founders Day Festival, Tribute to the District of Round Hill—required a host of volunteers; so many that I hesitate to list them all since I could inadvertently miss someone. We are very appreciative of everyone! That being said, our summer staff, Caitlin Thomson and Lindsay Sims, along with weekend kitchen staff Carla Thompson did have a few helpers who came multiple weekends to help serve in the tearoom—thanks to Ashleigh Dickson, Regan and Haley Clarke, Everly McGhie, Dustin Gagnon and Cheryl Prestage. New volunteers who need an introduction: Hilda Saddleback and Gale Freeman and Karl Erickson.

We started several projects over the past six months—updating and making some of our displays more consistent (grant from Alberta Museums Association). We completed construction on the long-awaited track car shed, made possible with grants from Alberta Spirit and Alberta Community Initiatives and now are working on the interpretive aspect. The CIP grant also allowed us to replace our wooden sidewalks and to purchase tables and chairs for 100 for outside use. A grant from the

Battle River Community Foundation allowed us additional security with installation of an exterior camera as well as a motion-sensitive light on the platform. Bruce has done a wonderful job in the new shed setting up tool displays. Barb MacDonald is researching and will be preparing the interpretive signage in both the new shed and the tool shed. We are definitely moving in the direction of museum excellence. Donations were given by the Thrift Shop, the Camrose Ladies of the Royal Purple and Camrose Co-op.

We have had many donations over the past few months:

- Jeannette Schandl: many paper achieves, a suitcase and plate collection on behalf of her husband Joseph (as well she became a member of the Society)
- Edward and Joanne Kusalik: Czechoslovakian memorabilia
- Lois Campbell: many items belonging to Hugh Campbell, former maintenance of way employee of Camrose
- Wolf Kirchmer: paper archives
- Morris Fankhanel: map of Camrose and area predating the CNR
- David Steiner: two switch lamps
- William Smith: CNR clearance papers - the last orders from Edmonton
- John Tessari: 1957 Chev truck for the Railway Garden
- Dean and Lorrie Tieg: collector plate, conductor hat, and gift shop items
- J Lloyd Kitchen: tin cup
- John Wold: replica of a Massey Harris 101 farm hand loader
- ABC Fire Inspection: fire extinguishers
- Ralph and Cec Atkinson: collector plates, royal family plates
- Jim and Carol Issakson: two old-fashioned ice cream makers
- Robbie O’Riordan: tools, kitchen supplies and picture
- Kitchen Family: many articles kept for the station and also for the White Elephant Sales

- Glenys Smith: kitchen supplies
- Gladys Douglas: perogies and 15 double batches of gingerbread for school programs
- Ann Reitan: supplies for kitchen
- Baking Bee participants: Gladys Douglas, Ann Reitan, Carol Rawson and Carol Roy, Ashleigh Dickson and some members of Camrose Spirals who help when and where they can
- For many hours in the garden: Matilda Fleck
- Sharon Ofram: white elephant sale items
- Many community members of Round Hill who contributed huge amounts of information which is now compiled into a binder.
- The Round Hill WI, spearheaded by Doris Powers, donated a wonderful nine-bark shrub in honour of the Round Hill Tribute
- Alma Falk: for the beautiful handmade raffle prizes
- We would like to say thanks to the County of Camrose who has contributed \$2,000 towards the upkeep of the Meeting Creek site.

Janine Carroll

## In History

—1884-11-01 (125 years ago): The Harbour Grace Railway, the first railway on Newfoundland, is opened for traffic between St. John’s and Harbour Grace. The last spike was driven by His Royal Highness Prince George of Wales, later to become His Majesty King George V, who was at the time visiting Newfoundland as a midshipman aboard HMS *Cumberland*.

—1964, December (45 years ago): Canadian National opens a new freight and passenger terminal in Saskatoon which permits redevelopment of the city centre.

—1979-11-10 (30 years ago): CP Rail No. 54 suffers a hot axle box and derails 24 cars containing dangerous commodities, in Mississauga, Ontario. Almost a quarter of a million people were evacuated for periods of up to five days. The Grange Commission report on the accident is published in December 1980.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to Windwood Signs of Camrose for a 20% discount on the manufacturing of the replacement interpretive signs for the Big Valley Roundhouse Interpretive Centre.

Thanks to our new member, *Don Wilson* of Regina, for his cash donation received with his membership. Welcome to *Barry Shutiak* from Jasper as a new member of the society. The society would also like to welcome *Jeannette Schandl* as a new member.

Thank you to Shawn and Karen Smith for the cash donation in memory of Frances Stuber. Sincere thanks also to Pat Stuber for the memorial donation in memory of Fran as well.

Thanks to Dean Tiegs for the donation of a lawn mover for the Meeting Creek site.

Thank you to long-time member Peter Didrichsen of Stettler for his recent generous cash donation to the society.

Thanks to Mrs. Lois Campbell for her cash donation in memory of Hugh Campbell.

From the Royal Mail:

Westport, CT May 9, 2009

Dear Friends,

I recently came across the enclosed historical article by John Schofield, then Assistant Architect of the Canadian Northern Railway, detailing the construction of Winnipeg Union Station. I thought you might like it for your collection. Still hope to visit one year—maybe 2010.

Best of luck, Carl Leaman

• Thank you, Carl, your article is now included in our historic archives at the Camrose station. We appreciate it.

## Big Valley Opportunity

**W**ANTED: Members or individuals to take “ownership” in the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame Pavilion and the interpretive signage at the Big Valley Roundhouse.

The Big Valley Roundhouse interpretive centre is truly a community effort. Owned by the Village of Big Valley and maintained by local volunteers together with the support of the Village, it is now a Provincial Historic Resource and represents a unique heritage attraction—no similar example exists in western Canada.

The Canadian Northern Society for years has supported this site, particularly through the provision of interpretive signage. As reported in the last *Chronicle*, we made a significant investment in some replacement signs earlier this year, which were installed by our volunteers. In recent years, the society also sponsored the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame Pavilion, which features similar outdoor interpretive signage to those at the roundhouse and highlights many of the inductees of this virtual on-line Hall of Fame ([www.railfame.ca](http://www.railfame.ca)).

We are seeking an interested historical-minded individual to take over the responsibility for maintaining the signage at these two sites in Big Valley. You do not have to reside in Big Valley necessarily; you simply need to have an interest in:

- Visiting the site on occasion to determine the condition of the signs and, if required, effect repairs.
- Arranging for the development of additions to the interpretive signage at the Hall of Fame Pavilion to correspond with the annual inductions to the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame, and the installation of these accordingly.
- Collaboration with local volunteer and community efforts to continue to keep this wonderful heritage site presentable.
- Suggest and recommend new signage if desired.

The Village of Big Valley and the Big Valley Historical Society have played a significant part in keeping the grass mowed and the site presentable. The Canadian Northern Society would like to continue its role in providing interpretation of the history of the site and contributing towards the site's overall maintenance wherever possible.

Can you spare a day or so a year to help with the continued preservation and presentation of the roundhouse site? Contact Kathy Evans (403) 876-2033 or Janine Carroll (780) 672-3099 ([canadiannorthern@telus.net](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.net)) if you would be interested in this volunteer position.

---

A reminder—Our excellent *Along These Lines* history books and the similar revised condensed vignettes featuring the railway history of Camrose, Meeting Creek, Stettler and Big Valley on DVD are still available for sale.

Also there are Canadian Northern summer jackets available. Black jacket with charcoal accents, with the Canadian Northern logo on the left chest. Women's and men's sizes available.

Contact the society at Box 1174, Camrose, AB T4V 1X2 or phone (780) 672-3099 if you are interested.

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 or directly at their home:

Dean and Lorrie Tiegs, 7518 186A Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5T 6A6

Phone: 780 484 4038 / [secretary@canadiannorthern.ca](mailto:secretary@canadiannorthern.ca) / [www.canadiannorthern.ca](http://www.canadiannorthern.ca)

Design and Layout by Whale Tail Graphics • (780) 484-4038 • [www.whaletailgraphics.ca](http://www.whaletailgraphics.ca)