

McNaught Homestead

McNaught Homestead Preservation Society

February 2015

Newsletter

Issue Ten

Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendar for Tuesday March 24th, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Anglican Hall. Reports and Updates will be presented. All are welcome.

President's Message by Peter Martin

The Homestead Society has had another fairly busy year in 2014. Our live-in caretaker, Lori Spears, did an awesome job around the property with minimal help. Keeping the brush and grass away from the buildings for fire protection is a key component of that work as well as yard and trail maintenance.

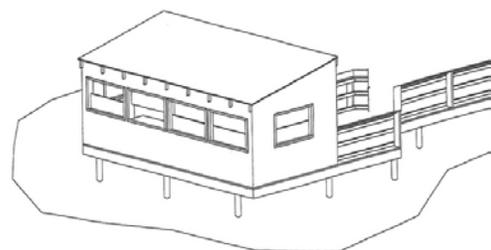
The Society has plans to restore other buildings but this is going to take time and of course money. Our big project for the next 18 months is the construction of the boardwalk and observation blind on the North Shore of McNaught Lake. With the help of private donations, Ducks Unlimited, EnCana and the County of Grande Prairie, we have just this month (January) started the construction. Seventeen screw piles have been installed for the observation blind and for part of the walkway. We have hired a contractor-carpenter to oversee and build this portion of the project. Many thanks to Don Nelson who is coordinating the project, including permit applications and the County grant application.

Our Spring Gala, Summer Festival and Tea, and Halloween Ghost Walk were all a success again in 2014. A huge thanks to Kyla Martin and Erin Dwernychuck for organizing the Gala and Ghost Walk and to Lori Dalgleish for organizing

the Summer Festival and Tea and to directors, society members and others who pitched in to get the jobs done. Many thanks to Betty Gaudin for writing receipts and thank you cards on behalf of the Homestead. Upcoming events for 2015 are being planned as I write this report (see event dates).

I hope to have more time to tinker away at various things this summer. Any help that Society members can offer is greatly appreciated. Call me if you have a few hours to spare, and we will find something for you to do (780-354-2864). Any ideas or information to promote and enhance our work as a committee is welcomed and we invite new volunteers to come on board. Contact us via the website or write us at Box 879 Beaverlodge AB T0H 0C0. Thanks again to all who do so much; it makes the job as President very easy.

Boardwalk & Observation Blind Project Update



Since last year at this time great progress has been made toward this project. Three applications for permits were submitted and approvals were granted by mid December 2014. As well, an application for a Capital Budget

Grant was submitted to the County of Grande Prairie and the Society was approved for \$25,000 in mid January 2015. In early January, 17 screw piles were installed at the observation blind site.

Over the next three months (weather permitting) construction will begin on the decking and observation blind structure. Because McNaught Lake is a designated Trumpeter Swan nesting lake, construction is not permitted during their nesting period so construction on the boardwalk will resume again about September. Because we are a little short of our estimated budget we may need to launch another fund raising campaign by next fall.



Screw piles in place before blind construction can start

On Site Report by Lori Speers

Many trees came down over the winter and during an early summer storm. Thank you Randy Boettcher and Peter Martin for helping with this huge cleanup job. Mowing continues to consume a lot of time. The Homestead mower is getting old and a large one would help, but Santa did deliver a replacement so we continue with what we have.

Snowshoers enjoy trails and the fire pit during winter. During the summer visitors were frequent, including birders, strollers and artists.

A wedding was held on site in June and several family groups had photography sessions. Visitors have been respectful with regards to not leaving litter and taking care with the outhouse.

July brought us a worker by way of the student work program. Tristan mowed and trimmed and helped with the summer festival. Mice in the house and pigeons in the barn and old granaries continue to be problems. Several people have helped with this. A bull elk was sighted behind the garage in September. Moose, deer, foxes and coyotes are regular visitors. Looking forward to spring!

Art Program

Invitations will be extended soon to artists and craftspeople in the Peace inviting their participation in the Annual McNaught Festival and Tea to be held on site Sunday July 26th. Last year we were pleased to welcome artists from the North Peace region to demonstrate their art, as well as many of our local artists who have become part of our yearly showcase. We are continuing with our goal to provide this opportunity for artists to advertise and network with the public. Please contact us if you know of any new artists who would like to be part of this event.

Summer Festival & Strawberry Tea

General site maintenance included mowing of trails and preparations for the Open House and Tea. Setting up tents and obtaining chairs were major efforts for this event. A special thank you to Lori Dalglish for organizing so much for the festival and to everyone who pitched in. The Schoolhouse Studio, once used as Euphemia's own studio, again provided a venue which in past years had been a hub of entertaining and display of artwork when she and her sisters lived there.

Festival Artists giving demos in the afternoon did an excellent job of showing the public the intricacies of their art. Painting, weaving, pottery, jewellery-making, drawing, lace making and photography provided a mix of mediums for all to see.

The horse drawn wagon driven by Randy Nichol and daughter was a total hit and was kept busy all afternoon taking the public for a drive through the homestead fields and bluffs.



Scene from 2014 Summer Festival

Events for 2015

► **Annual General Meeting** Tuesday March 24th, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Anglican Hall.

► **OUR BIG FUND RAISER GALA**
Saturday April 25th, 2015, Dinner, Auction and Comedy Night. Doors open at 5:30. Supper at 6:00 followed by the comedy performance. Live and Silent auction to follow. The Society accepts donations of art work and items that can be put in the Silent and Live Auctions. Contact us if you would like to donate !

► **Homestead Summer Festival and Strawberry Tea** at the Homestead. Sunday July 25th from 1 to 5.



► Saturday October 25th
'Ghost Walk' from 6:30-9:30pm at the McNaught Homestead. For information in the fall or to offer to help prepare the event contact Erin 780-354-8836.



Ghost Walk 2014 Boo!

Publicity & Public Relations

As the Beaverlodge Cultural Centre celebrates 25 years of operation this year, we are reminded of the role that Euphemia played in this. Her drive to create opportunities for all artists in the area was the driving force behind the establishment of the Centre. It still continues to provide to all artists and art lovers a chance to view artwork or show their work and the various artists & art /craft groups to make use of the space. As well, the Beaverlodge Art Society (also known as the Beaverlodge Art Club) which operates out of this venue also owes its inception to Euphemia. As early as the 1930's Euphemia was inspiring local artists and by the 1970's the lessons she taught to a group in the Beaverlodge area evolved into the formation of this Society. The Society still functions today, and continues to thrive by painting together, sponsoring their Annual Miniature Show, holding meetings and workshops for children and adults and encouraging artists to show their work at the Cultural Centre and beyond. Euphemia's willingness to travel throughout the Peace in her lifetime to teach and to welcome people to her home to visit and share conversations on art was well known and her influence has remained an inspiring factor in the region.

Website Update

The Homestead's website is continuing to develop and provide background information on the Homestead and its activities. It is also linked to other interesting web sites that provide more and more viewings from all over North America. Please visit the site for information about events, memberships, newsletters and other organizations with similar projects.

www.mcnaught-homestead-heritage.com

Please note that you can pay for memberships on the website using Pay Pal. If you have any news, questions or wish to contact the McNaught Homestead Preservation Society you are welcome to use the "Contact" form on the website.

Public Use of the Homestead

Our Schoolhouse remains a facility that is available for retreats, meetings, classes etc. and can be reserved by contacting us. Donations are accepted for the use of the studio as we are a Non-Profit Society and cannot charge a fee. We welcome inquiries from interested individuals and groups.

Art & Archives

We are continuing to work on the archival work of Euphemia that we have in our collection. Her many sketches, studies, unfinished works and various paintings all comprise a legacy we need to see organized and eventually be made more visible to the public. As more people have inherited or acquired her work there is a growing need to archive her body of work. Frequent requests come to our attention for an evaluation of her pieces. We have contact information for an accredited and professional art adviser, and for dealers who can do these evaluations. Art Galleries may be able to help somewhat but often may not be familiar enough with her reputation and work. We are always willing to accept donations for our Collection and can give Charitable Donation Receipts for these based on estimated value.

Donations are welcome and necessary for Homestead Preservation work!

As a Society we depend on fund raising and donations to be able to apply for matching grants to provide the funds for various projects in the preservation of the Homestead. Large or small, we accept them all. The fundraising campaign will continue to seek funds, in kind and/or materials from as many sources (sponsors) as possible. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.



Trumpeter Swans

Board of Directors

Peter Martin, Chair
Erin Dwernychuk, Vice Chair
Vicki Hotte, Secretary
Lori Dalgleish, Treasurer

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Kyla Martin | Betty Gaudin |
| Marjorie Henn | Angie Patterson |
| Marilyn Snell | Don Nelson |
| Sheila Zumwalt | Todd Schaber |
| Catherine McLaughlin | |

Honorary Members

Doris McFarlane
Arlene Martin
Ted Smyth

Membership Gifts

At only \$10 a year, a membership may be a welcome gift for one or more of your friends. Mail to Box 879 Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0 or go to the website and pay using Pay Pal.



Another scary scene in the barn at Ghost Walk

**Boardwalk & Observation Blind Grants
and Donors (by Level), as of January 2015**

Grants

County of Grande Prairie (\$25,000)

Trumpeter Swan (\$25,000)

EnCana

Canada Goose (\$10,000)

Ducks Unlimited, In kind

Loon (\$5,000)

Doug Mackie

Mallard (\$1,000)

Richard & Debbie Harris

Monkman Fish & Game (\$2,500)

Pintail (\$500)

Carman Haakstad

Judy McFarlane

M K Harvey

Bufflehead (\$100)

Betty Gaudin

Cathrine Gabriel

Marion Hill (\$300)

Marjorie & Turk Taylor

Nicole Ramsey

Northgate Electric

Riendeau Construction

Trans Dynamic Services

Boardwalk Plank(s) (\$50)

Edna Sparkes

Ellen Lupick

K McClellan

Pat Dobb

Shelia Zumwalt

Tanyss Tews

Paul Thiel

G D Accounting (4)

Margaret Bowes (2)

Ted Emes (2)

Contractors & Co-operators

Liland Engineering

B. Popesco Cat Service

Fritz River Builders

ALL McG Anchors Ltd

RCM Mechanical

Bert Liland

Bruce Popesco

Colter Grinde

Frank Baker

Craig Milliken



Clearing snow to the blind site



Trail to site after a fresh snow