



McNaught Homestead Preservation Society

February 2016 *Newsletter* Issue Eleven

Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendar for Tuesday March 22nd, 2016 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 had a very busy year in 2015. A special thank you to our live-in caretaker Lori Spears for a great job of keeping an eye on the property. The big construction project for the year was 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 raised the needed funds for construction materials, labour and rentals. The project progressed pretty much as planned with a start on 16 January 2015 with screw piles going in for the observation blind. From that date until March 27th construction continued on the observation blind and the board walk. The Grand Opening will be on 23rd of July. Keep an eye out for details. Thanks to Don Nelson for coordinating construction details, permits and work crews.

Our Spring Gala, Summer Festival and Tea, and Halloween Ghost Walk were all a success again in 2015. A huge thanks to Kyla Martin and Erin Dwernychuk for organizing the Gala and Ghost Walk and to Lori Dalgleish for organizing the Summer Arts Festival 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 2016 are being planned as I write this report (see event dates).

Any help that Society members can offer is greatly appreciated (see the Friends of the Homestead form on page 5). 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 Society is welcomed and we invite new volunteers to come on board. Thanks again to all who do so much; it makes the job as President very easy.

On Site Report by Lori Spears

Many trees came down over the winter and during an early summer storm. Thanks to Pat Wearmouth for helping with this huge cleanup job. Mowing continues to consume a lot of time. Many thanks to our summer employee, Bradley Dwernychuk, who did an excellent job on the lawn, trails and helping with set up for the Arts Festival.

During the summer visitors were frequent, including birders, strollers and artists. Visitors have been respectful with regards to not leaving litter and taking care with the outhouse.

Moose, deer, foxes and coyotes are regular visitors. Looking forward to spring!

 A special thank you to **Arcand Accounting** for donating the photocopying of our last Newsletter.

Events for 2016

► **Annual General Meeting** Tuesday March 22nd, at 7:00 pm at the Anglican Hall. All are welcome.

► **OUR BIG FUND RAISER GALA**

Saturday April 23rd, 2016, Dinner, Auction and Comedy Night. Doors open at 5:30. Supper at 6:30 with comedy performance to follow as well as a Live and Silent auction. The Society accepts donations of art work and items that can be put into the Silent and Live Auctions. Contact us if you would like to donate!

► **Boardwalk Grand Opening Saturday July 23rd 2016**

There will be special guests and displays; all starting around 2 pm. Look for notices in early July.

► **McNaught Homestead Open house and Arts Festival and I.O.D.E Tea** Sunday July 24th, from 1 to 5 pm.

► **'Ghost Walk'** Saturday October 22nd from 6:30-9:30pm at the McNaught Homestead. For information in the fall or to offer help to prepare the event contact Erin 780-354-8836.



View toward McNaught Lake



An excited Betty Gaudin at the boardwalk



Visitors on Festival Day at the boardwalk



Boardwalk & Blind Project Update

The work started mid January 2015 and proceeded through February and March. By the end of March 95% of the project was complete including an aluminum ramp. No work was done during the summer to minimize any disturbance of the nesting swans. In the fall left over materials were dragged out of the water and mud and sorted to be saved or to be disposed of. Two benches were built and attached to the deck just outside the blind and 5 window inserts for the blind openings were made and installed.



Work Crew L to R: Barry Sideroff, Peter Martin, Colter Grinde, Bruce Popesco and Don Nelson behind the camera

Artist Program Invitations will be extended soon to artists and craftspeople in the Peace inviting their participation in the Annual McNaught Art Festival and Tea to be held on site Sunday July 24th. Each year we are 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

The Open House and Tea requires a lot of preparation such as mowing lawn and trails, setting up tents and chairs. A special thank you to Lori Dalgleish for organizing most of the festival arrangements and to everyone who pitched in. The Schoolhouse Studio, once used as Euphemia's own studio, again provided a venue which was the main hub for displays of artwork.

Festival Artists that gave demonstrations in the afternoon did an excellent job of showing the public the intricacies of their work.

The horse drawn wagon driven by Randy Nichol and daughter was a total hit and was kept busy all afternoon taking visitors for a drive through the homestead fields and to the first visits to the boardwalk at the lake.



Set up time for the Festival tent



Wagon rides at Festival

Beaverlodge Cultural Centre Is 25 Years Old

As far back as the early thirties, Euphemia McNaught had dreamed that someday there would be a special place where artists, and would be artists, could gather to work and to share their work and ideas. In 1989 this dream began to become a reality when the old Beaverlodge Hospital (built in 1937-1938) was to be demolished to make way for extensions to the present hospital.



Under the leadership of Doris McFarlane, a group began to plan how they could preserve that historical old building, and renovate it into a viable Cultural Centre for the area. By 1990 they had raised enough money to build a basement, and then move the building from the north side of town to the new location. Then began the hard and costly renovation work. Since 1991 the Beaverlodge Cultural Centre has been a vibrant community asset. Potters and weavers have spacious rooms in the basement. The Cultural Centre offers great instruction in a variety of arts and crafts including pottery, weaving, stained glass, drawing, painting, felting, and more.

We are reminded of the role that Euphemia played in creating opportunities for all artists in the area and how she was a proponent of the establishment of the Culture Centre. It continues to provide artists, craft groups and art lovers a place to view a host of great works. 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 Beaverlodge Cultural Centre celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year; watch for details. (www.beaverlodgegallery.com).

Days and Hours of Operation: Tuesday through Friday, 10:00am - 4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Closed Mondays and Holidays

Website Update

The Homestead's web site is continuing to develop and provide information on the Homestead and its activities. Also it is linked to other interesting web sites that provide more viewings from all over North America. Visit the web 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

The Schoolhouse/Studio is a facility that is available for retreats, meetings, classes etc. and can be reserved by contacting Lori (780-897-9973) for on site information. 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 inherit or acquired her work there is a growing need to develop a record of her work. Frequent requests come to our attention for an evaluation of her pieces. We have contact information for an accredited and professional art appraiser, and for dealers who can do these evaluations. 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 fundraising and in-kind 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. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations

Trumpeter Swan Information

The largest of North American waterfowl, the Trumpeter Swan is well known in northern Alberta in summer. The population was reduced to near extinction by the early 20th century, but is relatively common today. There have been Trumpeter Swans nesting on McNaught Lake as long as people can remember. **In the summer of 2015 the Trumpeter Swan pair on McNaught Lake reared 5 cygnets.**

Trumpeter Swans form pair bonds when they are three or four years old. The pair stays together throughout the year, moving together in migratory populations. Trumpeters are assumed to mate for life, but some individuals do change mates over their lifetimes.

Nests are usually shaped in a large open bowl made of aquatic vegetation, grasses, and sedges, lined with down and body feathers. The swans usually nest on slightly elevated sites such as a muskrat mound, beaver lodge, or small island surrounded by water. Swans lay as many as 9 creamy white eggs with an incubation period of about 34 days. The cygnets leave the nest in a day or two to swim and feed and begin to fly when about 4 months old.

Board of Directors

Peter Martin, Chair
Erin Dwernychuk, Vice Chair
Vicki Hotte, Secretary
Lori Dalglish, 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. (See page 5 as well).



Announcing the "**Friends of the McNaught Homestead**"

Anyone young or older can become a "Friend". Here is how it works. Let us know what your interests are and how you can help the McNaught Homestead Society!

Fill in the form below so that we can build a list of "Friends". We hope to obtain names of people to help with special events, school trips, yard maintenance (especially flower beds etc), workshops, and fundraising etc.

Fill in to join the "Friends of the Homestead" and/or for your membership

Name

Mailing Address

Town Postal Code

Phone number(s)

Please indicate your interests and willingness to help with one or more of the following:

- Fund Raising Gala (April) Summer Art Festival (July) Ghost Walk (October)
- Work Shops (Art & Photo) Gardening School Tours Trail Maintenance
- Newsletter Promotion & Advertising History & Archives Webpage
- Other

Return to the address below and/or contact one of the following for more information:
Peter Martin (780-354-2864) or Don Nelson (780-354-8612)

Memberships For 2016
\$10 per year

- Renewal** **New** **Gift**; donated by
- Cash Enclosed** **Cheque Enclosed**

Return to: **McNaught Homestead Society**
Box 879 Beaverlodge, AB
T0H 0C0

Be sure to check out our new web site at
www.mcnaught-homestead-heritage.com