

# P & H Elevator Preservation Society

Summer 2014

Newsletter

Issue # 17

Celebration Day

Roast Pork Dinner

September 28, 2014, 2-5 pm

At the P & H Elevator



Threshing demonstration using the “Little Giant“ & “The Beast“.

Thanks to your support, the P & H Elevator Project has been able to make great strides in the last eighteen months.

Everyone welcome & bring a friend

to celebrate the advancements that we have been able to make.

Dinner by Donation. RVSP would be helpful for catering purposes.

Please call: 403-742-3470, 403-742-4703, 403-742-5847



*Stettler Steel Wheel Parade*

## THE LITTLE GIANT

Before



Today



This machine was donated by the family of the Stan Reynolds estate.

This hand-fed wooden threshing machine was manufactured about 1887, number 227 by Heebner & Sons, Landsdale Pennsylvania.

It was originally powered by a horse treadmill.

Dave McCourt became interested and the result after hundreds of hours of work is a beautifully accurate restoration of this artifact.

To start with it was found that almost 95% of the wood had to be replaced. It was determined that the original wood was "Eastern Hard Maple". Through Dave's contacts he was able to source this same wood from the Eastern States for the restoration.

Several other people helped with the restoration including Hugh McCourt for an impeccable job of welding cast iron parts and Mary Ann Bull for a fantastic paint job including the original floral decorations.

To date we have only been able to find two other "Little Giants" on the internet, both in the U.S. However neither is in an operable state, so we believe we have the only operating "Little Giant".

## The Beast

Before



Today



We had been looking for a typical "Elevator Engine" for a number of years. Dave McCourt learned of such an engine on his brother's farm (Norm & Donna McCourt). The result was the Frank Noyce family of Lloydminster generously donated a 1912, 10 Horsepower, International engine to us. It is believed that the engine was initially used in a grain elevator and later on the Noyce farm.

Along with the restoration of the Little Giant Dave McCourt took on the task of restoring this engine. The restoration was major (all parts were seized) and often a source of consternation which resulted in the name "The Beast". Several other people helped with the restoration including Oliver Bull who restored the wagon. At this time Dave has "The Beast" running well and we are using it to demonstrate an elevator engine and run the "Little Giant". A Great Pair.

## Home of the Little Giant



As the Little Giant and The Beast were nearing their restorations it became apparent that we had a problem: where do we house these artifacts? It was about this time we received a wonderful offer, Metalex Metal Buildings Inc., Stettler would donate a metal building for these machines. They have constructed a first class building that is awaiting the overhead door. Overdoor, Red Deer has also helped us by giving us a favorable price on the door and they will install it soon.

Also Gale Blumhagen and Gerd Liebe offered to place and finish the concrete for the floor. The floor looks great. We also had a generous financial donation from Ken McCourt which allowed us to cover most of the remaining costs.

The result is a fantastic building that fills the need for storage and adds to the significance of the Elevator Complex.

## Residing and Painting the Elevator



Our goals in restoration are to use good quality materials, replicate as closely as possible and perform good workmanship and by doing so we feel that several future generations will only have to carry out general maintenance.

The residing and painting of the elevator is complete except for

signage. As often is the case the job turned out to be longer and more complicated than anticipated. The preparation work carried out by the volunteers was extensive with the cleaning, replacement of foundation, wall replacement and general repairs.

After the Elevator was repaired a special wrap (brought in from the U.S.) was put on. This wrap provides an air space between the Elevator wall and the cedar siding to prevent moisture problems. We choose cedar siding of the same size and shape as the original. However we used siding (vertical grain-clear, #1) that is several grades better than the original. The siding received 4 coats of primer and top quality paint. Stainless steel nails were used (to Prevent rusting) to attach the siding.

## Snack Bar

The snack bar has been operating well this summer and will be open on train days until October 18. We **Thank the Ladies** that have volunteered so faithfully. Stop by and try one of the renowned hot dogs, cookies, sundaes and other goodies.



## Summer Student

We were able to hire a summer student under the Canadian Summer Student program which is a cost sharing program. Our summer student was Maggie Mckenzie and she proved to be a real asset to our summer activities.



## High School Building Construction Class

This spring we were fortunate to have Gord Goodrich and his School Class work on the south wall of the feedshed. They put up the vapor barrier, installed the false studs, the insulation and the exterior sheeting. This wall is now ready for the cedar siding.

## Looking Forward

As we look ahead there are a number of activities and projects that we wish to undertake. They include:

- Continued fund raising efforts to pay back our \$ 30,000 bank loan that we incurred to complete the re-siding and painting of the Elevator.
- Complete the insulating of the Feedshed.
- Work on the heat and smoke detector system.
- We hope to be able to start the heating system and washrooms in the Feedshed. This room is being used more and more (when warm enough). The latest group is a 4-H club.

## 2015 Annual Membership

Have you got your 2015 membership?

Annual - \$20,    Lifetime - \$150

Website [www.StettlerGrainElevator.com](http://www.StettlerGrainElevator.com)

Invite friends and family to check out our website.

“Like us” on Facebook.

## E-Mail

Anyone that would like to receive their Newsletter

via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to

[stettlergrainelevator@gmail.com](mailto:stettlergrainelevator@gmail.com).

## **P & H Elevator Society**

Box 1437, Stettler, AB. T0C 2L0

**Membership 2015**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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*Donors to the Stettler P&H Elevator Projects*

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Canalta Hotels	School Construction Classes		

All the above names were included in the Thank You Card published in the Stettler Independent Newspaper on Sept. 18, 2014.

To everyone that has helped with our numerous activities and events

**THANK-YOU**

We apologize if we have missed anyone's name.