



# Stettler P & H Elevator Preservation Society Newsletter

Spring 2006

Issue#1

## Message from the President

I called a meeting to determine the community's interest in saving one of our last heritage structures, the P&H grain elevator. A small but dedicated group of hardworking supporters and volunteers took up the challenge.

I think we have made good progress over the past year. The clean up was the big task along with other projects such as restoration of the coal shed. A non-profit society has been formed and the incorporation was completed in September.

We have an ambitious program planned for 2006. In order to complete these projects our goal is to raise \$7500 to help offset the cost of construction materials. We are looking hard for ways and means to raise these funds. Any suggestions would be welcome.

The volunteers work hard but we try to have fun carrying out the tasks. Our satisfaction comes from the feeling that we are helping to keep the past history of this area alive and paying tribute to our forefathers who built this great community.

## General Meetings

The general meeting of the Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society is held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at the elevator office. Everyone welcome.

## History of the Elevator

Margaret Martin has been searching through microfiche, town records, and museum records to confirm the history of the elevator. The search continues but some interesting material has been found. We have not yet established the exact date that the present elevator was constructed but believe it to have been built in the 20's.

- 1916 Rail road map with outlines of 2 P&H elevators*
- 1918 A bill of sale for a grain elevator sold by Strong & Dowler to Parrish & Heimbecker. The selling price was \$2400.*
- 1920 A contract to construct an elevator with bin capacity of 25,000 bushels between Canadian Northern Railways and Parrish and Heimbecker Ltd. dated January 31<sup>st</sup>.*
- 1920 Lease of elevator site signed in August between The Canadian Northern Railway Co. and Parrish & Heimbecker Ltd. Also a separate lease for the coal shed site was signed at this time.*
- 1928 An article in the Stettler Independent indicated a new P&H elevator was built on the CN tracks.*

Discussions with Stettler seniors indicated that a P&H elevator was destroyed by fire but we are unable to confirm the date with town records.

### Coffee Stop

Many faithful volunteers have helped in the coffee stop weekday mornings since August. More coffee drinkers are needed. Come out and visit or play crib, checkers, or cards. The coffee stop is open from 9 – 11 weekdays. Rumour is Joyce and Vic open a little earlier on Thursdays.



### Centennial Celebrations

The Society had a booth in the Stettler Centennial as well as floats in both the Erskine and Stettler parades.

### Farmer's Market

Several dedicated members put a table in the fall farmer's markets. They sold pies, donated crafts, and elevator memorabilia.



### Fall Open House

Over 100 people attended the fall open house. Cake and coffee was served and guests were given a guided tour of the elevator. Many guests shared their memories of the P& H elevator.

### Christmas Party

Forty supporters attended the January Christmas party at the Legion Dieppe Room. The food was delicious. Vic Stuckey entertained us with his cowboy poetry. Lloyd Smith sang and Harry Stuber shared his experiences with the Big Valley elevator. Stan Eichhorn was the master of ceremonies.



### Building Projects

In the spring of 2005 about seven volunteers started cleaning the elevator, office and coal shed. Years of accumulated grain dust were scraped and hauled out. The grounds were cleaned and mowed. Then we started shingling the coal shed and repairing the

siding. Later in the fall metal siding was put on the west side of the feed mill.

### Proposed Projects 2006

- Finish roofing on east side of feed mill
- Reconstruct east wall of feed mill
- Paint coal shed
- Re-roof and replace floor and siding in feed shed
- Repair and stabilize east wall

### All Volunteers are welcome!

Work bees are held on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings weather permitting. Volunteers are needed to do carpentry, serve coffee, encourage the workers, bake, do electrical, clean and tidy, organize displays, etc. For confirmation of a work bee, call Stan at 742-4703.

### Bird House Show and Yard Sale

In May Mary Roy will be displaying her birdhouses and we will have a yard sale of items collected from members. The date will be advertised in the Stettler Independent.

#### Membership

Adult - \$20/year

Child - \$2/year

Lifetime - \$150

Circle the type of membership.

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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