

# STEAM RAIL NEWS

Rocky Mountain Rail Society

www.6060.org

Sept./Oct. 2009

## August Railfan Special and Dedication Ceremony

The 6060's return to steam may have been late this year, but at least she was ready in time to partake in a number of festivities in Big Valley area during the August Long Weekend. During first three days of August, Big Valley played host to the 2009 Metis Hivernant Rendezvous, annual Homecoming Parade, Alberta Prairie's Railfan Special, and 6060's Alberta Historical Resource Dedication Ceremony.

The 6060 proudly served as motive power for the excursion trips made during all three days. She pulled return runs on the Saturday and Sunday. Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup> was the day of the Railfan Special. 6060 arrived early in the morning with one of Alberta Prairie's diesels in tow while the 41 followed with the passenger train. The two steam engines and the diesels were placed on display during the stopover, and the 6060 was tied on to the coaches for the return trip back to Stettler.

During the stopover, the 6060 was honored in a very special ceremony. Ophelia Liew, representative of Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, was on hand to officially declare the 6060 as an official provincial historic resource.

This is the first time in Alberta that a steam locomotive has achieved such a designation. It serves as recognition of the historical significance of the 6060 will aid the RMRS with future preservation efforts. Ms. Liew presented RMRS President Bill Williams with the distinctive official plaque that will be permanently mounted on the 6060 in the near future.

The dedication ceremony was also used to present veteran RMRS volunteer Bob Leinweber with this year's Spirit of Alberta Award. Over the last number of years, Bob has been a major contributor to 6060's maintenance and repair efforts in Stettler. This is particularly true over the past winter and spring, where he essentially lived in the Stettler bunkhouse for several weeks at a time. Those who have worked with Bob will appreciate just how deserving he is of this recognition. In addition to his mechanical skills, Bob has an infectious positive attitude. He helps to keep potentially stressful extended stays in Stettler light hearted, en-



Ophelia Liew designating the 6060 as a Provincial Historic Resource

joyable, and fun! Congratulations Bob!

Many other RMRS members were on hand during the weekend. Our speeder was in operation during the stopover on all three days, providing free rides along the passing track for both the train passengers and Big Valley residents. A display / souvenir tent was set up and expertly coordinated by RMRS volunteer Mark McNair. Ernie Beskowiney, owner of New West Live Steam, was also in attendance and displayed the drivers and undercarriage of his in-progress 7.5" gauge model of the 6060, an exact scale replica based on the original MLW drawings. Those not familiar with Ernie's work came away suitably impressed with his level of detail

# August Railfan Weekend (cont.)

and precision. Ernie arrived in his unique, customized 3-ton truck, specifically designed to transport his models. It is adorned with a large decal featuring a painting of 6060 on one side and 6069 on the other. Ernie's ride certainly attracted the attention of many curious onlookers.

RMRS members Don Totten, Ernie Beskowiney, and Kevin Quigley were pleased to help Don Gillespie and the staff at Alberta

Prairie to prepare and serve a pancake breakfast for all Big Valley residents and guests prior to the homecoming parade on Saturday Morning. We fed several hundred hungry and appreciative people. It was a great demonstration of community spirit.

In addition to those mentioned above, very special thanks are extended to the many other RMRS volunteers whose contributions helped to make the weekend such

a success. These individuals include Anne Hokema, Al Watch, Russ Grycan, Don Totten, Bill Williams, Joe Cernak, Ron Switzer, Bob Leinweber, Duane Drouillard, Derek Drouillard (our newly qualified speeder pilot), Neil Dowdell, Zac Brewer, and David Dunsmore. We hope to see everyone back for next year's show!

**Kevin Quigley**



6060 departing northbound from Big Valley



Bill Williams with the Designation plaque and Bob Leinweber with Spirit of Alberta Award



APST's Engine 41 arrives at Big Valley



Ernie Beskowiney and his work in progress 7.5" scale model of the 6060



## 6060 Update from Stettler

As we are well aware, this year's operating season started somewhat late. The 6060 pulled her first train on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. Despite the delays incurred earlier in the spring and summer due the multiple throttle rebuild and temperamental safety valves, all issues were resolved and the rather exhausted maintenance crews were able to have the 6060 steamed up and ready to go for the August long weekend. In total, the 6060 made a respectable seven trouble free trips during the season (August 1,2,3,29,30, as well as September 19 and 20), pulling a total of approximately 2000 delighted railway passengers. Alberta Prairie's Kelly Gillespie

served as 6060's Engineer for all of the August runs while Harry Home successfully recovered from knee surgery back in Jasper. Harry returned to the Engineer's seat for the September runs while Don Totten and Dennis Pringle shared firing duties through-out the season. Special thanks are also extended to Al Watch, Russ Grycan, and Bob Leinweber, who took care of the light-up tasks and routine engine servicing prior to each trip.

The 6060 ended the season in fine form, and was recently returned to the West Stettler shops to wait out the winter and complete the installation of the Event Recorder / RSC System. Fortunately, relatively few

major repairs tasks are planned for 2010. This will give our mechanical/maintenance volunteers a well-deserved break. The newly formed mechanical committee (featuring Harry Home retaining the position of CMO, but now assisted by Bob Leinweber, Russ Grycan, and Don Totten) is in the process of establishing 6060's maintenance priorities for the following season. Without doubt, there will be volunteer opportunities available in the upcoming months. Please feel free to Contact Don Totten , should it appear that you may have some free time this winter.

**Kevin Quigley**



## 2009 RMRS Annual General Meeting

Please remember the Annual General Meeting happening this year on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at Iron Horse Park in Airdrie, AB. It will be at 11:00 am with lunch to follow and a tour of the updates to the Park including their mountain extension.

We would appreciate your input at these important meetings so please try and come out. We will also be calling you or emailing you to remind you.

If you need directions or help with a ride, please call me.

**John Pinter**

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**Iron Horse Park's scale train ready for riders**

# Heritage Park Railway Days

I can't say exactly when it was but in the early 1990's Rocky Mountain Rail Society was invited to attend the Heritage Park Railway Days Celebration. At the time we needed the money and any opportunity to sell souvenirs was welcome. The 6060 was at the Alberta Railway Museum near Ft. Saskatchewan. As I recall we had repairs to do. I think it was rod brass. There were other bills too but I won't go into detail on this other than to say it was a struggle. The first event was a great one Jim Bogdan was the Chief Engineer of Heritage Park and we struck up quite a friendship. He invited a few RMRS members to go for a cab ride in one of the locomotives. I was given an opportunity to fire a little it was a very forgiving locomotive to fire and I enjoyed the opportunity. As I recall it was a successful first event for us. Sales were good and we

attracted a number of new members. For me this led to a job at Heritage Park as a fireman on the 2024. This was fortunate for me as I got to work with both Jim and Don Toole. They taught me a lot about operating and maintaining steam locomotives. A number of RMRS members have been involved in the Railway Days activities over the years beyond running our booth. This has led to a number of key benefits for RMRS one being spare parts for the 6060 another being knowledge. In 1999 the 2024 needed to have firebox repairs, members were part of the crew that helped complete this extensive repair.

I have had a lot of fun doing the Turntable and the water tower demonstration over the years. This year I plan to talk about the 100 foot turntable that arrived at Stettler from Jasper. Both of the

demonstrations have been well attended by members of the public and it is neat to interact with the crowd.

Today members of the society came to my home we loaded up our souvenirs and by 7:00 pm the booth was set up and we were ready to go tomorrow. At the end of the set up another event was going on at the park. Can you believe it....there was a get together for Court Judges..... Well there was an Old West shoot out and was it a show. Gabriel Dumont would have been proud. Those of us who were there had a photo taken at our booth with one of the ladies from the show. What a way to spend an evening.

Have a good one all see you all at the AGM. **Don Totten**

## More on Railway Days

Railway Days has come and gone again. Heritage Park again provided an excellent venue for this event and with all their new attractions including the CPR Station and Gasoline Alley provides a valuable addition to Calgary's entertainment calendar.

Rocky Mountain Rail Society members provided a significant attraction in itself and we were successful in promoting ourselves to the public, selling many souve-

nirs and signing up some new members to add to our growing membership.

I would particularly like to thank Joe Cernak, Duane Drouillard, David Dunsmore, Andrea Desjardins, Bob Leinweber, Paul Douglas, Rick Boittaux, Kevin Quigley, Don Totten, Russ Grycan, Paul Kralovic and John Pinter for their help in this important event in our calendar. I also apologize to those others I did not get a chance



Heritage Park's 2023

to call back to confirm.

**John Pinter**





## Great News for APST and Stettler Area

### Major funding will restore old rail line to Donalda

**By Richard Froese - Stettler Independent**

Published: October 01, 2009 8:00 AM

Updated: October 01, 2009 9:42 AM  
A plan to restore an old railway line linking Stettler, Ab and Donalda, Ab has received a major funding grant of over \$3.2 million.

East Central Alberta Heritage Society was authorized funding of almost \$3.9 million, said society chair Norma Leslie, from the federal Community Adjustment Fund through Canadian Badlands for two projects with a focus to redevelop and enhance the region's rural communities and their local tourism industry by the spring of 2011.

Funding will support the society's plan to restore the line and to develop a linear park in Donalda and Big Valley.

"We are elated," said Leslie who chairs the society that was incorporated in 1997.

"It's been our goal to relay the line ever since we were formed." To relay the old 20-mile line on the east side of Highway 56 that was removed by the Central Western Railway in 1998, the society received about \$3 million with \$732,000 to develop a linear park in Donalda

and Big Valley.

"It will certainly be a great resource for our community," said Village of Donalda Mayor Terry Nordahl "This will create an influx of tourists into town and help out local businesses."

Restoring the old line will enable world-famous Alberta Prairie Railway Excursions to extend its tours north of Stettler.

"We have a contract for Alberta Prairie to lease the line so they can run their train," said Leslie.

"We have to start work as soon as possible to get it complete for 2011."

To relay the line, the society estimates \$2.5 million for materials equipment and services, \$500,000 for labour while the society is required to provide \$250,000 for other funding or in-kind donations. Since the park project is budgeted at \$792,000, the society will be required to raise \$60,000.

"We want a natural park along the track in each community where people can enjoy wild flowers and watch the birds, relax and admire the scenery," said Leslie.

The heritage society currently owns 99 miles of railway rights-of-way from Edberg to Morrin.

"Our government, through the Community Adjustment Fund, is proud to support rural Alberta communities and provide them with opportunities for economic growth," said Kevin Sorenson, Member of Parliament for Crowfoot, on behalf of the Honourable

Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification. "We are putting Canada's Economic Action Plan to work by protecting and creating jobs, supporting the local tourism industry, and enabling communities to strengthen their foundation for long-term success."

Under the newly formed "Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Centre", a single application was submitted to the Community Adjustment Fund for 23 different projects on behalf of 19 rural Alberta communities.

"This money is going to do so much for our smaller, single-industry communities," said Cindy Amos, Executive Director for Canadian Badlands Ltd.

"The funding will put people to work, increase tourism capacity, attract small to medium size business to rural communities and stabilize rural populations."

"This is a real boost to the local economy as well as to our ever-expanding tourism industry here in the Canadian Badlands."

The Community Adjustment Fund is a federal program to mitigate the impacts of the economic downturn by encouraging job creation in affected communities. Not only will \$6.2 million injection result in immediate job opportunities for locals, but also create long-lasting tourism-based infrastructure that ensures a legacy of longer-term economic benefits.



## 6060 Work Party

Work Party Saturday November 7th at Warden and Stettler. We will be working on the Tool Car and the box cars. We will be meeting at the West Stettler Shops on Hwy. 56 at 9:00 am in Stettler on the 7th. If you wish to help please contact: **Don Totten** email [dtotten@telus.net](mailto:dtotten@telus.net) or by phone cell: **403-617-6360** or at home: **403-201-2917**.



The 6060 (without conical nose) unrestored and on static display in Jasper, Ab.

Photo was taken by Norm Corness on March 4, 1969

## 2010 Casino Dates

We have been given tentative dates for our casino in the new year! Our dates will be Saturday and Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Elbow River Casino. This is Easter weekend. The casino never closes!

Please keep these dates in mind as we will be looking for volunteers.

We realize that these dates do not always fit in with our personal beliefs and our personal lives but because the income from the casino is so important to the Society's financial well-being we accept what we are given. In this case it is doubly important that we accept them because these dates are earlier than previously indicated and the funds will be very helpful in keeping up with our maintenance and operational schedule on 6060.

If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of the executive.

### John Pinter

RMRS Casino Chairman

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## Alberta Prairie Railway Excursions

**Come and enjoy a day on the Train**

Fun for the all, with different theme excursions such as murder mysteries, family, dinner theatre, seniors and teddy bear. Experience a train hold up by the notorious Bolton Gang. On board entertainment and a meal is included on all excursions.

Trains leave from Stettler, Ab. and runs to Big Valley, Ab and returns to Stettler, Ab. 5 to 6 hours later. Using steam and diesel locomotives it's a fun day trip back into history

**To book your excursion call:**

**403-742-2811 or 1-800-282-3994 or log onto:**

**[www.absteamtrain.com](http://www.absteamtrain.com)**



Ladies from the Big Valley Historical Society greet the arriving passengers during August RailFan Weekend

## RMRS Christmas Social

Don't forget to come to the annual Rocky Mountain Rail Society Christmas Social.

It will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Hull School. Address is 2266 Woodpark Avenue S.W., Calgary. Snacks will be provided.

Please bring your spouses as we would like this to be a family affair. I know my wife Gloria will be there.

If you need directions or help with a ride, please call me.

**John Pinter**

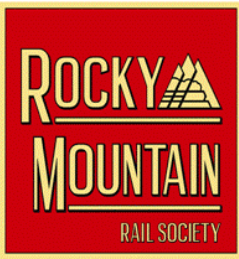
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## Monthly Meetings

All members are invited to Board of Directors meetings each month. Contact **W.E. (Bill) Williams**, President, for time and location @ **403-803-6805**



## Donations

In return for the efforts of a couple of RMRS members who helped the Alberta Prairie Group at a Big Valley Pancake breakfast recently, we received a very nice donation from Bob Willis and Don Gillespie of Alberta Prairie.

## Newsletter

Thanks to everyone who has sent in articles and pictures they are always welcome.

Please send your articles and/or pictures to:

Email: [gastren@hotmail.com](mailto:gastren@hotmail.com) or mail them to P.O. Box 591, Redvers, SK, S0C 2H0

Ph: 306-452-8253

Thanks, Glenn & Tracy Astren

