

NEWSLETTER

LOCATED IN BRESAYLOR • SASKATCHEWAN • CANADA

(306) 895-4813 • MAILING - PO Box 33, Paynton, SK, S0M-2J0

2014

OPEN JULY & AUGUST • SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY • 1-4 pm

& BY REQUEST WHEN POSSIBLE - MAY to OCTOBER

Dear Supporters of Bresaylor Heritage,

Another year has flown and we are once again trying to shuck off an overly persistent winter. In Saskatchewan it's been a colder one than last year, but with less snow, fewer storms and so less shoveling. Now, if it would just leave.....

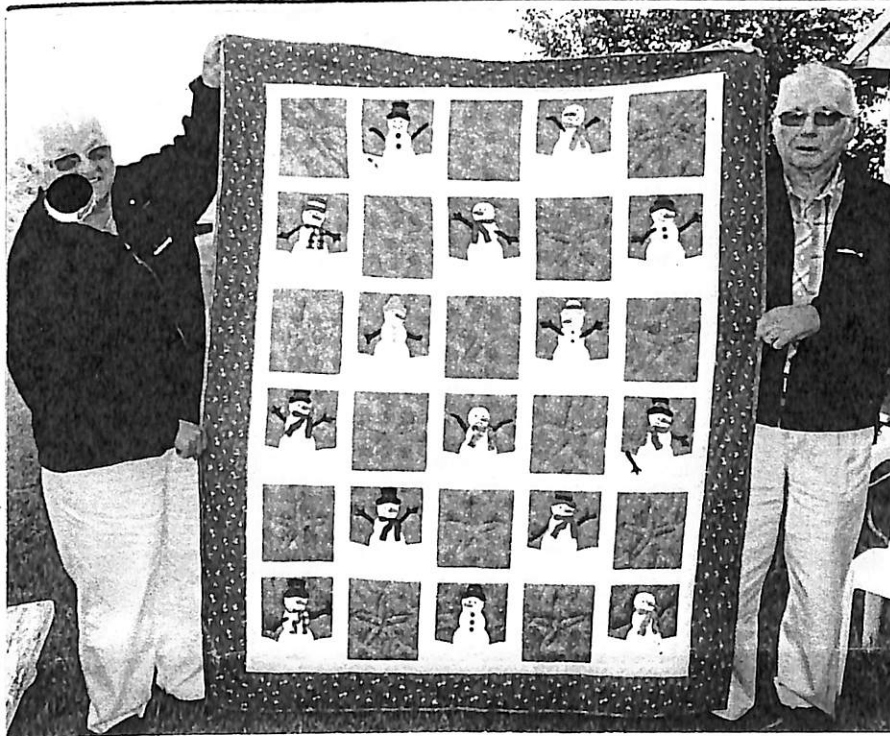
We did hear from Parks Canada about the matter of historic designation. It will be interesting to see if anything further is taken up on this issue by other players in the heritage field. For now, our task is as it has been for some time. That is to see that the right thing is done for the Bresaylor museum. We would really like more Board members who are willing to work toward the security of the museum remaining here. Vanessa Currie-Foster has said she's coming on board, and of course she's a busy person. Isn't that the only kind interested?

The AGM is scheduled for May 7. Do plan to attend. We need all the ideas and offers of help and support that we can get. Once again, we aren't planning on hiring a student this year, so volunteer help is more important than ever.

For now, thank you so much for the ongoing support and interest you continue to lavish upon us. Have a great summer and pay us a visit if you can.

For the Museum Board who are Marie Ferguson, president; Marion McDougall, Margaret Currie, Helena Caplette, Ross Currie, and Don Ferguson,
I am yours Sincerely, Velma Foster

2013 EARLYBIRD HALF-THE-POT DRAW WINNER - BARBARA HOUSEN - \$74.



Last season's **Word-Search Puzzle**, created by Margaret Currie, offered another challenge to participants, including a "seek" for **27 Bresaylor Names**. The quote, "**THREE THINGS I NEVER LENDS - MY HORSE, MY WIFE, AND MY NAME**", was solved by several people, and Barbara Grieg's name was drawn from those. Barbara is an enthusiastic fan of the Word-seeks so it was nice to have her win this one. Thanks to Margaret for creating another puzzle, also to her and daughter Rosemary for contributing a special Cookbook and homemade soap for the prize.

LAST SUMMER'S POT LUCK SUPPER AND RAFFLES JULY 28, 2013

Following the usual lavish meal gifted to ourselves by ourselves, the much anticipated draw for the Quilt took place. The quilt - of snowmen - referred to as "**OUR GANG**" was won by **Harold and Mona Bullock**. The Bullocks, who now live in North Battleford, were present at the supper. Quite incredibly, for two years in a row and three times in recent years, the winner of the quilt has been present at the draw. It's so nice to send the quilt home with the winner.

Consolation prizes: Gift Certificates went to Marion Stoughton and Dave Florizone, Helen Perry, Jeff Baldwin and Barbara Lowson.

A \$20. Gift Certificate to someone present went to **Ron Falcon**.

Complimentary tickets for the upcoming 2014 Raffle went to Rosemary Currie, Beverley Davis, Robin Phillips, Robert Taylor, Caje Peterson, Kathy Grant, Rob Blais, Helena Caplette, Joy Taylor and Candice Elder.

• **THANK YOU to all who participated in the Raffles** which raised over \$900. for the Museum, \$55. for Paynton Pioneers, plus a small amount for tickets sold by the Paynton Library.

• BRESAYLOR SETTLEMENT • NATIONAL HISTORIC EVENT • PARKS CANADA •

Our readers will remember that in the Newsletter of two years ago (2012) the Bresaylor Museum Board sent out notice of having started the process with

PARKS CANADA
of designating the
BRESAYLOR SETTLEMENT
a NATIONAL HISTORIC EVENT.

Many of you sent supporting letters to this initiative - some descendants of original Bresaylor Settlers, many not. We all felt that there was a part of our history that deserved a little nudge of recognition.

AND THEN CAME WORD... that the "staff historians who assist the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in the conduct of its business" did **NOT** recommend our proposal "for formal consideration by the HSMBC".

SOMEWHAT SNUFFED OUT you might say. At the time I simply let the matter go.

I had written the application, but wasn't prepared to argue it further.

Leave it to another day, another warrior.

And I do hope that day will come.

someday

NOW, with the Newsletter heading out, a few further thoughts are in order>>>>

Few people apart from our Board members have seen the application we sent to Parks Canada regarding the designation of the original Bresaylor Settlement as a National Historic Event. Although copies of the application were offered upon request, few asked to receive the document. So few have actually read it. And it's difficult to judge the tenor of the proposal without seeing it. So I will restrict comments about it here, and we will allow an opportunity at the Museum Annual General Meeting for further discussion.

Suffice it to say that my main criticism with the Screening Report is that the staff historians misinterpreted the intent of the application.

If you would like to look at the written material in more detail, do request the following package of copies of: 1) the application for designation to Parks Canada, 2) the Screening Report from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and 3) my commentary on the Screening Report as sent to the Director Julie Dompierre, Commemoration Branch of Parks Canada.

Finally, it had been our hope that if the original Bresaylor Settlement could be designated, an important aspect of our Museum would be enhanced. Which couldn't hurt in our attempts to guarantee that the Museum remain in Bresaylor, where it is, that is, at the centre of what was once the Settlement.

I am continuing to look for support for the viability of the Museum being kept in Bresaylor. Perhaps we need to know that descendants of those original people are truly on side. Also, that those who endeavor to do so much for the larger Metis cause will see the importance of keeping this little nugget of countryborn history in its own treasured showcase. We'll be looking harder than ever now for assurances.

Break-in at Paynton Post Office

During the night of Friday, July 2, 2013, the Paynton Post Office was broken into. Everything of any value was taken. The mail boxes and parcel area were cleaned out, cash and stamps were removed from drawers, etc.

The Museum mail was not picked up on the Friday of the break-in. So, there is a chance that mail sent to the Museum and arriving on that day might have been taken. If you had expected correspondence from us around that time, now you know what might have happened to it. For instance, if you sent in a donation, you would not have received a receipt for it. Tickets sent in would have simply disappeared.

Betty Ann Stewart, Post Mistress at the time of the break-in - and now retired - was somewhat amused by the fact that money (about \$25.) from the sale of Bresaylor Quilt Raffle tickets was missed by the robbers, having been tucked away in some non-descript envelope. That was lucky. We have always appreciated being able to sell Quilt raffle tickets at the Post Office.

Barbara Huck and Peter St. John are owners of Heartland Associates Inc of Winnipeg. They have published many impressive books covering travel, natural history and heritage. Check their website - Heartland Associates Inc - for more information.



The 2013 Museum season started early for us, on May 23, with Heartland Associates Inc launching their latest publication: "Kisiskatchewan, The Great River Road", a work of historic fiction by author Barbara Huck. A small crowd gathered in the Museum Office building, out of a chilly wind, to hear the author read from her novel and discuss aspects of the life of its hero, William Tomison, who, among his other achievements, established Manchester House on Pine Island (yes, our Pine Island in the N. Saskatchewan River northwest of Bresaylor) for the Hudsons Bay Company. Also, he established Fort Edmonton and Rocky Mountain House. He became Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company (1780-1804), the only Orkneyman to do so. †

Peter St. John, Barbara Huck's husband, happens to be the 9th Earl of Orkney. That should delight many of our supporters whose fur trade ancestors came from the Orkneys. Many of these descendants have in recent years made the journey to that historic ancestral land. And, not surprisingly, Barbara and Peter too made a journey to the Orkneys, to launch "Kisiskatchewan" there - at the Stromness Museum, the Marengo Centre in St. Margaret's Hope and St. Magnus Centre, Kirkwall. [Check Wikipedia for background on the Earls of Orkney.]

† From Shirley Wishart, re. William Tomison: "Tomison is special to us -- descendants of James Spence. After James Spence died at Buckingham House (1795), Tomison looked after his wife Nestichio, James Jr., Andrew George and Margaret "Peggy" Spence until they moved to the Red River Settlement". Shirley Wishart has done much of the research resulting in the books her brother Vernon has published - see later. Her own health issues have prevented her from finishing her own writing endeavors - so far.

• NEWS, LETTERS, VISITS, WORDS -- YOURS & OURS & OTHERS...

• CARE OF COLLECTIONS COURSE - Museum Association of Saskatchewan.

• Helena Caplette joined me in a M.A.S. course held at the WDM last October: "Care of Collections" is one of the best courses in proper care of Museums. I never did the test afterward but Helena did, and passed. Now she will be the expert in the care of the Artifacts in our collection. Well, maybe that's a lot to expect. But, I do hope we will spend a

• 2014 Early-Bird Half-the-Pot draw will take place on July 1. A single \$1. ticket is enclosed with the Newsletter. More can be entered at your request.

Two small quilts are on this

Summer's Raffle:

"Wheels of Mystery" & "Owls"

& consolation prizes.

The draw will take place at the Bresaylor annual

Pot Luck Supper, July 27.

[A book of tickets is enclosed and more will be entered at your request.]



In 2013 the Paynton Branch of Lakeland Library Region marked 40 years of library service to the village of Paynton and the R.M. of Paynton.

The local library board hosted a celebratory Cake-and-coffee evening on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the library with approximately 35 guests in attendance.

The above photo shows from left to right: Linda Peterson (librarian from 1999-2004), Margaret Currie (librarian from 1994-1997), Sonja Margerison (our present day librarian), and Beverly Webb, who was our first librarian and served from 1973 to 1994. In the background to the left, is Enola Valiere (patron and substitute librarian). Missing is Cathy Cox, (librarian, 2004/5).

Our branch can thank members of the Bresaylor Women's Institute who, in 1972, circulated a petition requesting that the R.M. and Village sign on to the newly formed region. We were housed first in the board room of the Credit Union, then moved to the newly built Seniors Centre in 1978. Following the closure of the school in Paynton, we moved into the school library in December of 2003. It is a bright and spacious area.

The passage of the 40 years has seen many changes in library service. In 1973, the date stamp and card files were the librarians most important tools. Now, computers and the Province Wide One Library System have taken over. Patrons can go online at home and view the catalogues of every public library in the province and order books accordingly.

And one thing stays constant. If you love books and you love to read, the library is the best place to be.

by Margaret Currie, book lover

DONATIONS

To the BRESAYLOR HERITAGE MUSEUM Are Tax deductible. A DONATION Of \$5. or more Entitles you to Become a Card-carrying Supporter of Bresaylor Heritage And to receive The NEWSLETTER

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Can be used For GIFT SHOP Purchases Or For RAFFLE TICKET Purchases

"IDLE HANDS ARE THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP"

W	Y	R	E	D	I	O	R	B	M	E	N	F	E
N	O	N	N	R	E	K	O	O	T	S	I	L	T
A	R	R	O	N	K	E	C	N	E	F	G	Y	I
A	E	A	R	K	A	O	T	K	W	N	B	A	N
O	G	N	D	A	B	I	L	G	I	V	I	N	K
B	U	R	C	S	H	A	E	H	I	T	I	D	S
T	E	H	C	O	R	C	S	S	E	A	N	R	L
L	U	A	H	P	P	O	H	C	T	E	L	S	Y
S	Y	M	L	Z	H	T	N	S	M	V	W	E	S
H	N	O	O	A	H	U	F	I	C	M	I	L	K
S	W	O	M	R	T	L	I	U	A	Y	S	K	C
A	S	M	E	T	I	L	P	S	O	A	T	T	R
W	E	S	N	R	U	H	C	U	W	A	T	H	U
R	H	H	S	A	W	E	T	I	H	W	E	I	E

- SCRUB
- PLOW
- WASH
- CHOP
- SEW
- SPLIT
- KNIT
- HAUL
- CROCHET
- FENCE
- EMBROIDERY
- HAMMER
- MEND
- HARROW
- DARN
- SHINGLE
- BAKE
- MILK
- QUILT
- THRESH
- CHURN
- SCYTHE
- WHITEWASH
- STOOK
- SAW

Here's another word-seek challenge by Margaret Currie. Seek out the list of "work words", then find the leftover letters. As always, the words appear in the puzzle horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Circle the letters as you find each word (note: no letter is used twice). Then all of the leftover letters are needed to complete the quote. Some are in place, with spaces for those missing. Good Luck!

"_ A _ I _ E _ _ _ AY _ OO _ I _ I _ I _ _ ,
 _ U _ O _ _ Y _ O _ _ _ I _ E _ _ OU
 _ _ UE _ A _ I _ _ A _ _ IO _ ."
 _ _ _ A _ _ E _ _ _ A _ _ _

lot of time this summer reviewing our Collections policy and practice, assessing what items fit our Museum's purpose, and clarifying for all Board members our museum's policies, including disbanding.

• An update on **Saskatchewan Willy** - our new old friend and most recent SK homesteader -- to the Choiceland area, that is. It seems that in spite of one of our coldest winters ever and some frozen pipes, Bill has had a good winter, keeping himself busy building stuff and planning a **Dobie** family reunion at his new place in August. Also, he's helping the **Choiceland** Museum plan an addition to their museum, no doubt putting his drafting skills to work. Lucky them. Bill's mother, **Fern** (Wallace) **Dobie**, seems to be taking his new project in stride - had her other son take her there to visit the new place, and, on the way, managed to miss Bresaylor by 30 miles. They hit the Battlefords via Hwy. 40 and didn't care to backtrack. Oh, well, Fern, maybe this summer on the way to the reunion.

• **SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO TWO OLD FRIENDS** of Bresaylor Heritage - **Wallace Gregson** turned 95 and **Jean Stewart** turned 90. Two remarkable people and wonderful sources of history • **May Wakelin** informs us that she has moved in with her daughter on her heart doctor's advice; she is not to be alone. We're glad to hear she and daughter-in-law enjoyed their visit with us in 2012.

• We regret that our long-time friend of the Museum and Taylor family connection south of the border, **Jack Millar**, passed away.

• **Vilda Laing** of Cut Knife has moved - to Saskatoon to be closer to family. • We're always happy to hear that **Betty (Currie) Churchman** is doing well, still at the Care Home in Cut Knife. • Now, **Mary (McDonald) Siferd** has moved to Abbotsford, further from us, closer to her family. • **Don Rahrck**, like many others I'm sure, is "looking forward to the Paynton history book as my grandparents were early settlers"...indeed they were **Setters**, very early.

Other visitors to the Museum were the **Blais** family while home celebrating another reunion. Also, **Kathy Grant**, of Parks Canada; then **Ashley Dekok**, also of Parks Canada; and **Tami Conley-Blais** of Fort Battleford. It's always nice to be looked in on.

• **Mitchell Family - GONE!** Yes, it's possible. **Vern and Joy Harrison** of Drayton Valley, AB, visited the Museum last October. They brought an album of photos and family memorabilia and asked if the Museum would take care of it. **Terry Mitchell** had died and he was the last of the Mitchells, that is, the **William and Martha Mitchells** who came to Bresaylor in 1915 (see Bresaylor history bk). **William Mitchell** became grain buyer for Herriot Grain Co. (later Federal Grain). Few people now will remember the Mitchell family when they were in Bresaylor. Quite a few still remember **Jock Mitchell** who was a grain buyer in Laahburn. He and his wife **Lil** raised nephew **Terry**. **Terry** was a teacher in Drayton Valley at one time and that's how the **Harrisons** came to be his friend, and so concerned that the family be remembered.

UPCOMING DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

- **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, Bresaylor Heritage Museum at Bresaylor, May 7, at 7 p.m. We're looking for Board Members. Join us if you'd like to help keep the Museum going.
- **BRESAYLOR CEMETERY WORK BEE** to repair gravestones - First week in June. Contact Ross Currie (306) 895-4349 or Don Ferguson (306) 895-4825 close to that week for more details.
- The Northwest Archaeological Society will meet at the Bresaylor Museum at 11 a.m. June 21, and continue on from there to visit the Paint Pot area of the Paynton Co-op Pasture. Anyone interested is welcome to join the outing. Bring a lunch.
- **CLAY OVEN CONSTRUCTION EVENT** with Vanessa Currie-Foster and Marianne Taubenzie. at Bresaylor, September 11 - 13.
- The **PAYNTON HISTORY BOOK** is WELL ON ITS WAY - New deadline for SUBMISSIONS - AUGUST 31, 2014.

If you have received the mail-outs about the Paynton History book project, you will notice that it will be covering the entire Rural Municipality of Paynton. This means it is overlapping the following areas covered in the Bresaylor history book: Arbor Hill S.D.; Battlebank S.D.; half of Federal S.D.; and Bresaylor Hamlet. Updates are welcomed on family stories covered in the the Bresaylor book.

The Paynton history book committee has been hard at work collecting names. The recent mailing went to over 800 "snail-mails" plus a growing list of emails.

Louisa (Dobie) Shermerhorn's compilation, The "Paynton's People", has been very helpful as a starting point for this project. Louisa has been checking on Paynton history for years, including keeping tabs on the Cemetery as it has been threatened by the loss of identity of those interred there - from wear, tear, and vandalism. Louisa helped supply information to the Bresaylor history book, and in turn has referenced names from there back onto her list. Her list does not pretend to be comprehensive in its details but the family names are there and that's a great help.

SOME THANK YOUS ARE IN ORDER...

- To our Quilters - Margaret Currie, Marie Ferguson, Faye Falcon, and Irene Larmour; this year for 2 small hangings: "Circles of Mystery" & "Owl".
- To Museum Board members for grass cutting, raking, preparation and clean-up for special events. Newsletter mailouts.
- To the R.M. of Paynton for Bresaylor Cemetery grass cutting.
- To Bill and Helena Caplette for glass panes to fit the broken window.
- To the Paynton Farmers Market for a donation of \$976.68.
- To Colleen Sayer, visiting photographer from Edmonton, for the gift of images taken in the Museum and outside.
- To my niece Marla Ramsay for help with my own sorting and documenting.
- To all generous donors to Bresaylor Heritage.



Mystery couple? This large portrait was brought to the museum by Bonnie (Spence) Schimschock. Finding it after her Mother had passed away, she could not determine who the couple was.

We hope that someone can help with this. Bonnie's parents were Rod and Avril (Sayers) Spence. Rod's parents were George and Elizabeth (Adams) Spence. Could this couple be them?

FROM THE GIFT SHOP

• "**Kisiskatchewan, The Great River Road**" is available in the Museum Gift Shop for \$22.95

Also, "**Exploring the Fur Trade Routes of North America**" (travel guide, history, Native history, HBC, Lewis & Clark, Oregon Trail, etc.) by Barbara Huck, at \$29.95.

• Also, these two works by Vernon R. Wishart: His first book, mentioned before in this newsletter,

"**What Lies Behind The Picture? A Personal Journey into Cree Ancestry**" is a must-read. \$25.

• His latest, a first work of historical fiction,

"**Kisiskatchewan: Tracing My Grandmother's Foot Steps**", sells for \$24.95.

Also in the Bookshop: • "**St. Victor Petroglyphs, The Place of the Living Stones**" by Jim Jones & Louise Jones. (Saskatchewan's largest rock carving - petroglyph - site, dating to between 1800 and 250 years ago, contains 340 carvings of bison, grizzly bear and human tracks, hand prints, human faces, and other figures.) \$22.95.

• *On Order?* "**Clearing the Plains: disease, politics of starvation, and the loss of Aboriginal life**" by James Daschuk. \$39.95

[This book I have just ordered thro the library. Then will decide if it should be in the Gift Shop.]

• & • In digital: "**BRESAYLOR BETWEEN The Battle and the North Saskatchewan Rivers**".
Book \$65. or CD \$20.

• Enquire about more books and other Gift Shop items.

OBITUARIES 2014

Stan Tebb

January 31, 1925 - November 14, 2011

*

Marguerite (Bowes) Scott

February 10, 1914 - July 30, 2012

*

Elizabeth Grace "Betty" (Sayers) Martin
February 10, 1942 - December 11, 2012

*

Irene (Land) Jenny

July 10, 1918 - May 27, 2013

*

Marguerite (Currie) Kennedy

d. July 10, 2013 @ 88 years

*

Mrs. Bud (Sheila) Dobie

D. July 23, 2013

*

Jack Keith Millar

d. July 24, 2013

*

Clifford Louis Caplette

January 27, 1924 - September 17, 2013

*

James Michael Shimek

d. September 25, 2013 @ 67 years

*

Sylvia Viola Currie

March 7, 1925 - October 8, 2013

*

Elizabeth Mabel "Betty" Foster

April 29, 1933 - October 13, 2013

*

Torbjorn Larsson

d. October 28, 2013 @ 65 years

*

Lawrence Joseph Caplette

March 15, 1928 - November 5, 2013

*

Linda Leibel

d. November 28, 2013

*

Robert "Gary" Currie

May 28, 1957 - January 21, 2014

*

Barbara (Massie) Lowson

d. February 11, 2014 @ 78 yrs.

*

Michael Steven Leschyshyn

January 31, 1929 - March 24, 2014

