



McNaught Homestead Preservation Society



February 2017 *Newsletter* Issue Twelve

Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendar for Tuesday March 21st, at 7:00 pm at the Anglican Hall. Reports and updates will be presented. All are welcome.

President's Message by Peter Martin

Greetings to all. Another busy year has come and gone. Each year seems shorter than the last.

We finished and hosted the Grand Opening of the Boardwalk and Observation Blind on the east shore of McNaught Lake. It turned out great and was enjoyed by many this summer. Special thanks to Don Nelson for all his hard work in spearheading this project and managing it through to the finish. Also thanks to major sponsors and anyone else who donated time and money.

Our Spring Gala and Summer Arts Festival are being planned again this year in April and July respectively (see events list).

Our next major project will likely be the house. This will be a costly project and any ideas for fund raising would be appreciated.

There is also a lot of work to do on the property itself with lots of dead brush to remove and trails to maintain. Any help would be appreciated (see last page to join The Friends of the Homestead).

If you have a few hours to spare 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.

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.

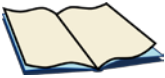
On Site Report by Lori Spears

The McNaught Homestead was a busy place last year and so much work was done by so many willing helpers. Thanks to everyone for pulling together for the spring cleanup, the Boardwalk Opening, the Summer Festival Day and the Ghost Walk. Congratulations to all! Also to Bradley our summer student for his dedication to mowing and helping where required.

The Ghost Walk was expanded to two evening this year and was a huge success with an estimated 400 plus attending. Thanks to Kyla and Erin and Peter for spearheading the set up.

Last summer there was an increase in visitors especially after Museum Days in Beaverlodge and Grande Prairie, many with the Homestead Rack Card in hand. A new cooking range has been installed in the house which is much appreciated. I smile every time I turn it on.

In the fall there were moose around the homestead, a bull and 2 cows. Partridge and ruffed grouse have been regular visitors in the yard as well as hairy and downy woodpeckers and nuthatches at the feeder. No red polls this year!

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

Events for 2017

► **Annual General Meeting** Tuesday March 21st, at 7:00 pm at the Anglican Hall. All are welcome.

► OUR BIG FUND RAISER GALA

Saturday April 29th, 2017. Dinner, Auction and Comedy Night at the Beaverlodge Community Centre. Doors open at 5:30. Supper at 6:30 with comedy performance by Sterling Scott with a Live and Silent auction to follow. The Society accepts donations of art work and items that can be put into the Silent and Live Auctions. Tickets are available at Around the Block again and are \$55 each or a table 8/\$400. Contact Erin to donate items. 780-354-8836.

► **McNaught Homestead Open House and Arts Festival and I.O.D.E Tea** Sunday July 23rd, from 1 to 5 pm.

► **Ghost Walk.** Friday and Saturday October 27 & 28th 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.



Artist Programs and Workshops

Planning for the art programs at the homestead is underway. We are planning to have weekend workshops starting in June on a variety of topics and will be taking registration for these by May.

Beginning in June there will be a weekly workshop "Let's Go Sketching" led by Marjorie Henn. This will introduce people to outdoor drawing basics. It will run for the month of June with a drop-in fee for each week.

Other topics we hope to sponsor are: Photography, Painting in Acrylics, Watercolour Painting, Printmaking, Pottery, Birding & Nature Appreciation, Felting, Pottery, and Introduction to Weaving. If you or someone you know is interested in any of these please phone Marjorie Henn, 780-228-3741 or Lori Dalglish 780-897-2746

Summer Festival & Strawberry Tea

The Summer Festival and Strawberry Tea require a lot of preparation such as mowing lawn and trails, setting up tents and chairs. A special thank you to Lori Dalglish 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 for displays of artwork.

Festival Artists gave demonstrations in the afternoon and were greatly enjoyed by the public. Their works are often for sale.

The horse drawn wagon driven by Randy Nichol and daughter are a total hit and will take visitors for a drive through the homestead fields and to visit the boardwalk at the lake.

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

Friends of the Homestead

A request went out last year for interested people to come forward to help with various aspects of running McNaught Homestead Society such as clean up and helping at our special events. There was a good response but the Society did not follow through with organizing this work force. So we are still seeking people to volunteer and maybe one of these volunteers will help us contact and organize volunteers for specific jobs. Here is the list of people that responded last year; Pat Wearmouth, Peter Martin, Barry Sideroff, Donna Lewis, Wendy Nurcomb, Don Nelson, Lane Borstad and Jeannette Borstad. Various options for helping include the Summer Festival, Annual Gala, Ghost Walk and trail maintenance etc. See the form on the last page if you can join us to continue with events for the public.



Gala Silent Auction

Official Boardwalk Opening

On July 23rd the McNaught Homestead Society hosted sponsors, donors and the public to the official opening of the boardwalk. There was a short opening ceremony with an introduction by Don Nelson and greetings from Ducks Unlimited, EnCana and the County of Grande Prairie (see photo).



L to R. Peter Harris, County of Grande Prairie Councilor; Brian Lieverse, Encana Community Relations, Grande Prairie; Peter Martin, McNaught Homestead Society President; Don Nelson, McNaught Homestead Society Boardwalk Project Coordinator; Randy Fedorak, Senior Development Manager, Ducks Unlimited Calgary.

The boardwalk is open to the public by foot access. It is about a 20 minute walk (1km) from the barn so follow the signs. During special events and the summer festival wagon rides will be provided.



Construction crew L to R Barry Sideroff, Peter Martin, Don Nelson, Colter Grinde, & Bruce Popesc



Website Update

The Homestead's website 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 website 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.



Setup for Gala

Euphemia McNaught Rack Card

The McNaught Homestead Society, Beaverlodge Area Culture Centre and Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Assoc. teamed up to prepare a Rack Card about Betty McNaught.



Drawing by Tim Heimdahl

A few of the highlights from the Rack Card are: Euphemia, one of Alberta's most recognized visual artists, was a founding member of the Beaverlodge Cultural Centre, Grande Prairie Art Club, Beaverlodge Art Club, Art Gallery of Grande Prairie, Peace Watercolor Society and the designation of the McNaught Homestead as a Provincial Historic Site. These cards are available at the Cultural Centre and Visitor Information booths.



Board of Directors

Peter Martin, Chair
Erin Dwernychuk, Vice Chair
Vicki Hotte, Secretary
Lori Dalglish, Treasurer

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Kyla Martin | Betty Gaudin |
| Marjorie Henn | Angie Patterson |
| Don Nelson | Sheila Zumwalt |
| Todd Schaber | Eileen Martin |
| 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).

Boardwalk Opening Winners

The Homestead has awarded two winners for guessing the number of planks making up the boardwalk. Because it was not clear if the estimate was just for the boardwalk or if it included the deck we awarded two winners.

Rose Kanda estimated 1000 planks when the actual number was 997 from the start to the deck. Doug Lowe estimated 1028 from the start to the blind and the actual is 1033. Each received a Ducks Unlimited coin.

Naming the blind was not as straightforward as expected as none of the names suggested was selected by the Homestead Board but we did use a combination of a couple of suggestions and decided the official name would be, "McNaught Swan Lookout".





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. We would also like a coordinator to help facilitate the jobs.

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 2017

\$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