

# The Crossbuck

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**Wainwright Railway Preservation Society**

**Spring 2004**

Charitable Registration 89975-6456 R001



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## Main Entrance sign erected

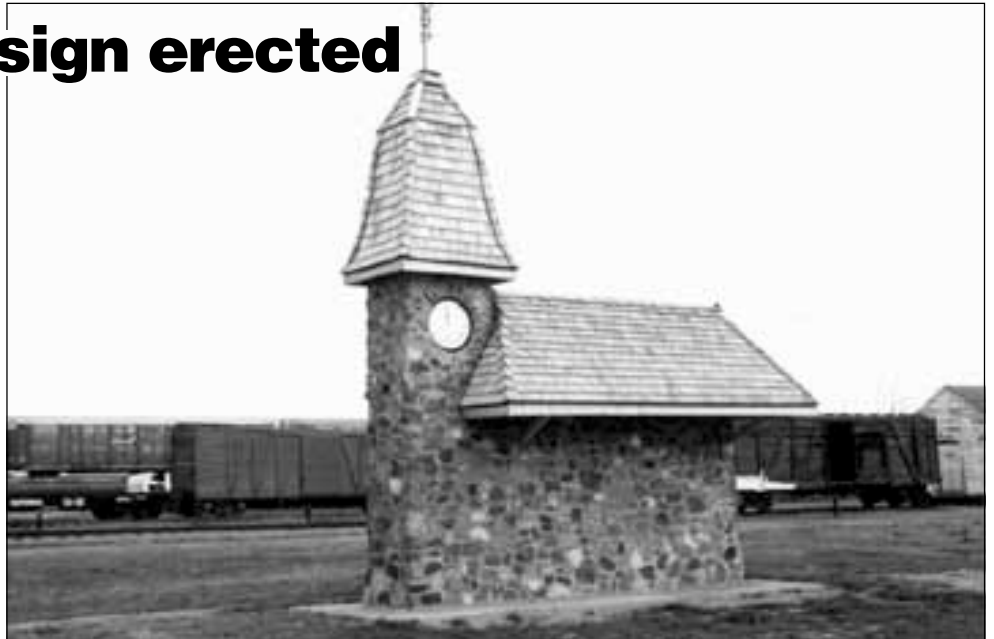
The final stones have been laid and roof sections have been installed on the main entrance sign at Wainwright Rail Park.

Last fall Ron Scribner provided his picker truck to lift the two roof sections onto the main structure and the clock tower. Two 24 inch clock faces were installed and have run all winter via a temporary electrical cable. Underground tech cable was in place last fall, but was not connected, pending the installation of floodlighting to enhance the sign. Appropriate lighting has been purchased from Battle River Electric who will complete the installation this spring as a donation. A junction box at the sign will provide access for electrical power expansion to areas east of the sign.

Keith Brower fabricated the lettering for "Wainwright Rail Park" by bending and welding rail spikes which were installed April 2. Keith is making wood roof support brackets and has spent countless hours building our sign. His craftsmanship is greatly appreciated.

Fascia and soffit materials are on site and it is anticipated the sign will be finished by mid May.

An official unveiling will be announced later.



## CN donates GMD-1 locomotive

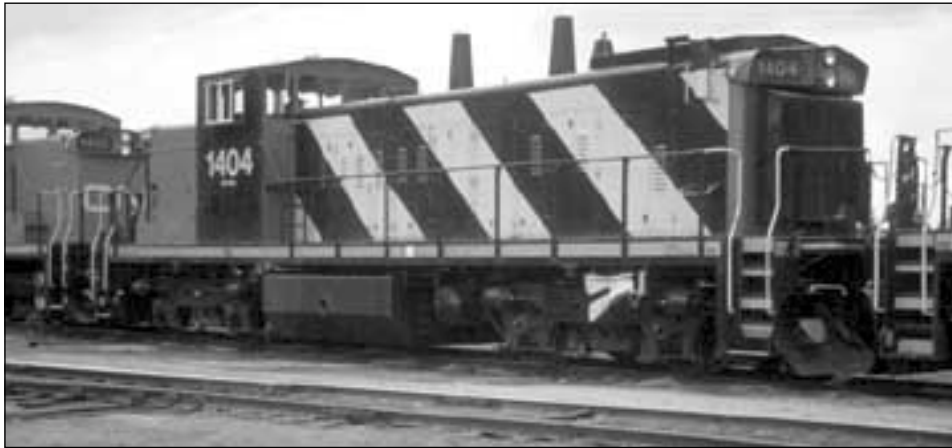
CN has donated a uniquely Canadian Locomotive to the Wainwright Railway Preservation Society. Gail Dever, CN Director of External Communications, confirmed on December 11, 2003 that CN will donate CN1404 which was built in 1958 as CN1057, then rebuilt and renumbered 1404 in 1989. CN1404 was currently in Montreal and will be delivered to Wainwright in the spring.

Although the diesel engine and trac-

tion motors have been removed it is otherwise complete and ideal for display.

In announcing the donation, Dever said, "At CN we are proud of our history and for that reason, we are pleased that you are helping to preserve part of our history. This donation continues CN's long tradition of supporting heritage initiatives, like yours, that promote the his-

*Donation, Continued on page 2*



tory of the rail industry”.

The process of acquiring this locomotive began when Don McGuire and Ken King met with Graham Wood, CN System Locomotive Fleet Planning Officer. They left the meeting with a short list of locomotives that were surplus to CN. Within a couple of days Mr. Wood called to suggest we file the appropriate paperwork with CN Public Affairs for the donation of 1404 and stated that his department would support the donation. The application was made and the following two weeks were a flurry of phone and email activity while the paperwork wound its way through the donation process, culminating in a phone call and follow up letter of confirmation from Gail Dever in Montreal.

CN 1404 began its trip to Wainwright leaving Montréal on February 11. It was scheduled for arrival in Winnipeg on Saturday, Feb. 14, but was set out at Ghost River, Ontario when it tripped a dragging equipment detector. According to Graham Wood, a Road Repair Truck was dispatched and the locomotive was ready to move again by Tuesday, Feb. 17. The locomotive was moved to Winnipeg, where it will likely be held until delivery to Wainwright. We anticipate the move to Wainwright will be made before the end of April.

An official “Turn Over” ceremony is planned for late spring or summer. CN officials, those involved with the donation, local dignitaries and the general public will be invited.

The Wainwright Railway Preservation Society is proud to add CN 1404 to its growing collection. Thank you to everyone involved with the donation.

## Christmas Raffle Winners

The Franklin Mint Anniversary Edition Monopoly Game (value over \$800) First Prize went to Larry Wright, Wainwright. Prize donated by Art & Lyn-J Gadoury.



Second Prize was a framed set of Bradford Exchange plates (value over \$300) going to Donna Clarke, Wainwright. Prize donated by The Springs Motor Inn.



Thanks to everyone who bought tickets. The proceeds will be used to preserve Wainwright’s railway history.

The Wainwright Railway Preserva-

# WRPS to participate in Buffalo Days

The WRPS will participate in the 2004 Buffalo Days. Organised by the Wainwright Way of the West Society, the event will be held on August 28 and 29.

The annual event brings many non-profit organisations in Wainwright together for a weekend of entertainment. Events included cowboy poetry, native dancers, teen dance, Karaoke plus other family events. Wainwright Rail Park provided tours of our site for the weekend. Wagon rides were available to transport people to the various venues.

tion Society is planning a food voucher raffle for later this spring. Tickets will be available prior to the Wainwright Trade Fair, and will be drawn during the Wainwright Stampede.

## Coming Events

**April 16 & 17**  
Wainwright Trade Fair  
Peace Memorial  
Multiplex

**June 5 (tentative)**  
Unveiling Wainwright  
Trestle Interpretive  
Signs

**June 12**  
Auto Fanatics Show &  
Shine, Bumper to  
Bumper, Hwy 14

**August 28 - 29** Buffalo Days

# Snowplow moved to site



*On October 10, 2003 CN Snowplow 55500 was moved into Wainwright Rail Park.*

*Several volunteers unspiked a portion of the Canamera Foods south loading track and swung the rails to join onto ours. CN Foreman Ron Emter supervised the trackwork and ensured that the Canamera trackage was properly spiked and gauged after the move. Thanks to all those who volunteered to assist us with this project.*

*55500 is a unique double track snowplow and differs significantly from CN 55414 which has been on display at Wainwright Rail Park since 1999. Our new plow is clean and ready to receive visitors for the 2004 season.*

## Building news

The WRPS has purchased one of the portable classrooms used by the Blessed Sacrament School, following the destructive school fire in 2001. The purchase price included moving and blocking the building on our site.

The 24 x 40 foot structure had new carpeting, lighting and a rebuilt overhead furnace installed before being used as a classroom. Vertical blinds, security screening on the windows to deter vandalism and approx. 1000 feet of heavy electrical cable were also included.

It will be moved to Wainwright Rail Park in mid April and should have displays installed in time for the 2004 season. This structure will allow us to move displays out of the bunkhouse which will eventually be restored and dis-

played as a typical railway outbuilding.

Last fall we requested an extension to the Museums Alberta grant for a concrete floor in the UGG Building while we investigated the possibility of using geo-thermal heating for the building. Gary Osmond, Museums Advisor, and Wendy Griswold, Grants Administrator with Museums Alberta were receptive to the idea and an extension was granted to October 31, 2004.

Prices have been obtained for the installation of the in-floor tubing and a grant application for its cost is being prepared. Grade work for both of these buildings has been provided by Butch Panter of RP Oilfield Services. Keith Brower has agreed to assist with the floor.

## Recent donations

Norm Corness has again donated a significant number of unique artefacts and archival items. Included in his recent gift were a book of 1908 Grand Trunk Pacific Locomotive Mechanical Drawings, several CNR Dining Car menus, a number of photographs, and many forms and manuals. He also has several larger artifacts that we will receive this year. Thank you Norm for thinking of us.

Bill and Ann Hessleton of Moose Jaw, SK donated a CN barrel ramp.

Danny Smith of Wainwright donated several older switch locks and keys.

# Border Rail 2003 a success



Border Rail 2003, the annual convention of Division 6, Pacific Northwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association was held in Wainwright over the 2003 Victoria Day weekend and was a huge success.

The Wainwright Railway Preservation Society co-hosted the event along with model railroaders from Wainwright, Paradise Valley, and Lloydminster.

Friday saw set up and registration at the Lakeland College in Lloydminster. ATCO Electric provided the snacks and coffee for a "meet and greet" in the College Cafeteria.

An impromptu slide show followed in the Lecture Theatre, where attendees were invited to show their railroad photography.

Through snow and cold, two busloads of registrants travelled to Wainwright on

Saturday May 17th. Several other registrants chose to drive to Wainwright. Tours included Wainwright Rail Park, The Wainwright Museum, Battle River Trestle and Doug Haire's model railroad. Both the morning and afternoon tours to the Fabyan Trestle had the good fortune to view trains crossing the trestle. Lunch (included in the registration) was moved from Wainwright Rail Park to the Legion Hall due to the inclement weather.

A barbeque was held at Lakeland College, followed by an evening of slides and videos in the Lecture Theatre. Layout displays were also open in the Gymnasium.

The Public Train Show was held Sunday in the Lakeland College Gymnasium, and the attendance was overwhelming. Over 800 people viewed the operating model railroads, and other displays. The Border Rail 2003



committee, and the Division executive, were ecstatic!

A variety of clinics were held throughout the day for convention registrants, and a day pass was available for anyone who wanted a further "Train Fix".

Sunday concluded with a banquet and presentation of awards in the College Cafeteria. On Monday several home model railroads were open for viewing. These included Bob Brown in Lloydminster, Gary Warrington in Paradise Valley, and Don McGuire in Wainwright.

In his remarks at the Sunday Banquet, 6th Division Superintendent Greg Orme stated that this was one of the best attended Division Conventions in recent years.

Congratulations Border Rail 2003 Committee, on a great show!

Strong hints have already been made that Wainwright should host the 2008 Convention.

Special thanks go to:

- Wilmar Implements, for the use of the John Deere "Gator", which was used to tour handicapped around our park
- The Royal Canadian Legion
- The Wainwright Museum
- Gary, Sandy and Sarah Warrington for assisting during the tours
- Ken King, for his assistance at the Battle River Trestle
- Our membership for their hard work that day under trying conditions.