

The Reno Reader

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CPR MIXED TRAINS

- by Ken Armstrong

After the young Canadian Pacific Railway extended itself into southwest Saskatchewan, Mixed Trains were an important part of their passenger operations from its inception until their demise in the mid-1960s. Passengers and freight co-mingled on these lines.

The CPR Mixed Train schedules initially offered twice-weekly service on the 122 miles between Shaunavon and Manyberries. On the 96-mile Val Marie line, service was just one train a week each way. Freight extras ran when there was additional grain tonnage to be moved, both east and west, and could be run at any time. Between Mixed Trains and freight extras, Consul usually saw no more than one, perhaps two, trains each day.

Typically, each Mixed Train was operated with a five-man crew. The Engineer, Fireman, and Head-End Brakeman rode in the steam locomotive. In the ubiquitous caboose at the end of the train was the Rear-End Brakeman and Conductor, who supervised the work and train crew, often to the great dislike of the Engineer.

At every station along the scheduled route for the day, the Mixed Train stopped to take or leave passengers, baggage, package freight, and anything else there was to haul. While the head-end crew on the steam locomotive set-out and lifted loaded and empty freight cars from elevators and businesses on the back track, both the Rear-End Brakeman and Conductor busied themselves with off-loading and loading passengers, freight, and baggage in the Coach-Baggage car located immediately ahead of the caboose.

The Conductor collected tickets from newly-boarded passengers at points where there was a Station Agent-Operator who sold them. At lesser points and flag stops along the line where there was no station, the Conductor collected cash fares from a passenger.

The Fireman hand-shoveled coal into the locomotive fire grates. Coal was needed to heat water to produce the steam pressure required to propel the locomotive. It was a dirty job, usually made worse by unforgiving looks and stern comments coming from the Engineer. At locations where octagonal-shaped wooden water towers were situated, such as Consul, Govenlock, and Eastend (just to name a few) it was also his job to take on fresh water that was poured into the tender attached to the locomotive.

At the end of their work day, both the Fireman and Engineer invariably overnighted in an Engineers' Bunkhouse situated near the locomotive. The other three were sequestered in the caboose for the night. Meals were cooked both in the caboose and Bunkhouse.



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299-7681**COMING EVENTS**

The **Annual Ladies Fellowship Banquet** will be happening on **Thursday, April 28th** at 6:15 pm at the Consul Community Hall. The evening's theme is "Living My Dream" with guest speaker Chris Schauer. Chris is a singer, songwriter, and the Equine Assisted Learning facilitator at Living Hope Ranch. She will be sharing her life's journey through story and song. Tickets for the evening are \$13 and can be purchased at the door.

Family and friends
are invited to attend
a Memorial Service for*Bob Chapman*to be held on June 6th at 2 pm
at the Robsart Cemetery.**SASKATCHEWAN VOTES**

Monday, April 4th saw Saskatchewan residents head to the polls to decide who would represent them in the Legislature for the next four years. By now you know that Brad Wall is heading into his third term as premier and that Doug Steele won the seat for the Cypress Hills constituency, representing the Saskatchewan Party.

At Poll #44 in Consul, there was a 62% voter turnout with 168 of a possible 271 people voting. 144 of those votes were cast for Doug Steele. Of the other 24 votes, 1 went to Tait (Liberal), 3 to Crowe (Green), 9 to Goohsen (PC) and 11 to Genert (NDP).

Consul's turnout was only slightly higher than the provincial turnout of 56.8%, the lowest in Saskatchewan's history. But because Elections Saskatchewan has gotten much better at registering voters, there were 150,000 more people registered to vote this time around than in 2011. Still, only 23,000 more people turned up at the polls.

"The number of people voting in provincial elections has been dropping consistently for the past 30 years," Michael Boda, Chief Electoral Officer in Saskatchewan, wrote on the Election Saskatchewan website. "And despite an 'official' turnout figure of 67 percent of registered voters during Saskatchewan's 2011 election, only 51 percent of voters eligible to vote actually did." This is possible as not all *eligible* voters are actually on the voters list and *registered* to vote on election day.

The two favoured provincial leaders saw markedly different results last Monday. Saskatchewan party leader, Brad Wall, received 82.4% of the vote in his Swift Current constituency, receiving 4,815 more votes than the next closest candidate. Saskatchewan NDP leader, Cam Broten, on the other hand, only received 46% of the vote and lost his seat in Saskatoon Westview by 232 votes to Sask Party's David Buckingham. Broten has announced that he is stepping down as leader. An interim leader will be selected on April 23rd.

NOTICES

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Farrier Services: Cody Gabruch, Graduate of Oklahoma State Horseshoeing School. 306-299-7220.

Spring has arrived!! Need **bedding plants or hanging baskets**? Consul School is once again selling flowers as a school fundraiser. Orders can be placed online at <https://consulschoolsrc.growingsmilesfundraising.com>. Deadline to order is **Friday, April 29th**. Plants will be delivered to the school and available for pick up on Wednesday, May 18th.

HELP WANTED!

Looking for fulltime, fun, outgoing attendants to join our pit crew this summer. cypresshillsspeedway@hotmail.ca 306-661-8909

I would like to thank all my customers for their continued support and I look forward to fencing for you yet again this year. Many have already confirmed their jobs for this year, so call soon to guarantee your projects get completed this year or for a quote!

Brandy Tremblay (306)299.7772 cell tremblay252@icloud.com

For Sale: New Holland 9682 4WD Tractor and 2 X 1250 gallon water tanks. Grant Brown 306-299-4477

If you have any changes to the **Reno #51 phone list** please let Heather know. 306-299-4954 or hgfisher@hotmail.com.

MANLEY'S BAKERY

Bakery Spring Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm Monday - Saturday
11:30 am - 3:00 pm on Sunday

Hours may be modified to accommodate ditch burning and irrigating season.
Watch for the 'open' sign and come on in for a coffee and a snack.

Consul Museum would like to thank all those who came out to our evening on March 28th to support our annual meeting and to join us in a sneak preview of the Pioneer Voices videos featuring Barbara Teigen, Roland Agar and Joe Geiger. It was fun to hear the stories these folks had to share!

We are also thrilled to welcome Teresa Heglund to our board! With her knowledge of the area and the people, plus her computer skills and bubbly personality, we know she will bring a lot to our museum and be fun to work with.

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DEADLINE FOR ADS
for the next issue is
Monday, April 25th
at noon.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on March 6th. Thanks to everyone who attended. We raised \$1125 for Telemiracle.
- Reno Senior Citizens Club

Thank you to friends, family, neighbours, and Pastor Dave for visiting and sending cards and helping me in any way while I was in the hospital in March. And to Eve and the boys for caring for Cricket and feeding my cats. And Geoff for his help and offering to help me finish my house roof when I am able. Everything was much appreciated. God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Ron Reesor



Saskatchewan's Fossil: VOTE!

Saskatchewan is represented by many official emblems including the western red lily, potash, white tailed deer and white birch. But Saskatchewan has yet to be represented by an official fossil. There are seven candidates vying for the title.

The candidates are:

- ◆ Brontothere (Megacerops sp.)
- ◆ "Big Bert" the crocodile (Terminonaris robusta)
- ◆ "Mo" the Long-necked Plesiosaur (Terminonator ponteixensis)
- ◆ Kyle Mammoth (Mammuthus sp.)
- ◆ Herschel Short-necked Plesiosaur (Dolichorhynchops herschelensis)
- ◆ Thescelosaur (Thescelosaurus assiniboienensis)
- ◆ "Scotty" the T. rex (Tyrannosaurus rex)

Voting closes April 25, 2016.
So get your votes in! Go to
<http://royalsaskmuseum.ca/fossil-vote> to see more info on each fossil and to vote.

