

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHABASCA HERITAGE SOCIETY
Monday, March 8, 2004

1.0 The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM by Christine Nelson.

In attendance were: Dick Baker, Peggy Baker, Mike Gismondi, Greg Johnson, Richard Loken, Jerry Maclean, Christine Nelson, Frank Ponto, Ben Warrington, Maxine Winder, Rod Winder, Agnes Wurfel

2.0 **Agenda:** We will talk about The River Breakup Raffle under item 5.1. The Ad Hoc Membership Committee report will be covered under item 5.6 (Membership Committee Report) instead of under Old Business item 6.1. Add New Business item 7.1 which will be a proposal to build a second scow this summer.

Moved by Jerry Maclean, Seconded by Rod Winder, Carried.

3.0 **Minutes:** The minutes for the meeting of February 9, 2004 were adopted as printed.

Moved by Jerry Maclean, Seconded by Peggy Baker, Carried.

4.0 **Treasurer's report:** There is no printed Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer applied for a license to run the River Breakup Lottery in association with the Athabasca Chamber of Commerce and Communities in Bloom. The Athabasca Heritage Society was invited to be part of this venture because only a registered society can apply for a lottery license.

Bertha Clark-Jones was refunded her 2004 membership dues because she has a lifetime membership.

5.0 **Committee reports**

5.1 **Publicity, Fundraising, and Promotion:** Agnes reported on the River Breakup Raffle which is being held to raise funds for the Multiplex Project. The Athabasca Heritage Society holds the license for this lottery which will have 1,440 tickets (one for each minute of the day) to sell for \$3.00 each. The prize will be \$1,000.00 which is approximately 20% of the maximum earning as regulated by the Alberta Gaming Commission.

Maxine Winder volunteered to be the lottery representative for the Athabasca Heritage Society which means that she gets to distribute some 500 tickets for sale and eventually receive back the money and the ticket stubs. Trevor Martin of Oxford Insurance is overseeing the lottery.

5.2 **Heritage Site:** Just one simple item. Rod Winder wants to purchase a tent frame and he will investigate the matter.

5.3 **Trans Canada Trail:** No report.

5.4 **Newsletter:** Christine was too busy to manufacture a newsletter so it will be produced in time for the River Rats Festival instead.

5.5 **River Rats Festival:** Peggy Baker reported that the AHS River Rats Festival Committee met at her home on February 18 to begin planning for this year's festival. The committee agrees that the Society's involvement in the festival should be designed to satisfy four priorities: promotion of the Society, education about Athabasca history, recruitment and involvement of members, and fundraising.

Seven potential activities for this year were identified and committee members were appointed to pursue their development. The seven activities are scow building, a photo display, display of the quilts, the sale of merchandise, temporary tattoos, and face painting. In addition there are a number of new possibilities which will be pursued by committee members: tepee to be erected and used in some way, historical tour with team and wagon, blacksmithing demonstrations, knife making demonstrations, rug hooking demonstrations, and spinning demonstrations.

5.6 **Membership:** The ad hoc membership committee that was formed at the February meeting met and came up with several lists including a comprehensive list, a phone list, and a membership list. Maxine Winder reported that she has an additional mailing list. The comprehensive list contains 206 name and contains a list of members, a list of people in the district who have an interest in the Society's activities, and the names of some interested parties who are outside of the Athabasca district.

The committee has been directed to use the the existing lists to draw up some new lists which are designed to target members and interested parties based upon their interests.

5.7 **Web Site:** No report.

5.8 **Northern Alberta Heritage Trail:** Frank Ponto was present to address the Society on behalf of the Northern Alberta Heritage Trail Association which is a partnership of some 26 Northern Alberta museums who have banded together to organize a tourist route that passes through all the communities where these museums are located. The Heritage Trail Association is publishing a promotional brochure for distribution throughout Western Canada which will include maps and advertising panels. The Athabasca Heritage Society had purchased a ``Bronze Membership`` which makes one of the advertising panels available to the Society. Frank suggested the Society increase its membership from Bronze (\$150.00) to Silver (\$350.00) which offers an advertising panel with a picture in it.

Be it resolved that the Athabasca Heritage Society commit \$350.00 instead of \$150.00 for membership in the Heritage Trail Society brochure.

Moved by Agnes Wurfel, Seconded by Greg Johnson, Carried.

- 5.8A **TIS** Frank Ponto told us that Travel Alberta has a web site where Alberta communities can upload current events information. The person uploading this information requires a password.

By the way, the Northern Alberta Heritage Trail Association has a website:

<http://www.heritagetrail.ca>

6.0 **Old Business**

- 6.1 **Ad Hoc Membership Committee:** This was covered under item 5.6.
- 6.2 **Multiplex Project:** Christine e-mailed Gilbert Perras to invite him to address the Athabasca Historical Society at the February meeting but he was unable to make the February meeting. However, the ARMS committee will send a delegation to the April meeting which will be held on April 19 to accommodate their schedule.

Christine saw a drawing of the current riverfront plan and it is similar to the drawing which was approved last year by the Society.

- 6.3 **Oral History Workshop:** The preferred maximum registration for the Oral History Workshop was fifteen and there are eighteen registrants as of February 8.
- 6.3A Christine has submitted a application to Alberta Human Resources and Employment for STEP funding for one employee in the summer of 2004. The STEP funding applications had to be submitted by February 27 and the application results should be available by April 16.
- 6.4 **West Athabasca School:** The application to have the West Athabasca School designated as an historical site has been submitted but the designation has not yet been received. Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole has replied that she is willing to attend a function related to the West Athabasca School but only after it has been designated as an historic site. Agnes Wurfel will be attending a meeting on March 24 to discuss promotional functions for the West Athabasca School.

Item 7.2 of the January 12 meeting minutes reported that it was hoped to have the West Athabasca School restored in time for the Communities in Bloom competition. This is incorrect, the minutes should read that it is hoped to have the West Athabasca School designated as an historic site before the Communities in bloom competition.

- 6.5 **Communities in Bloom:** Mike Gismondi reported that the judges will tour Athabasca some time in the second half of July but the exact dates are not yet known. Town beautification for this summer will include the addition of two new decorative plantings including one across from the Burger Bar. In addition, students will be painting a number of the trash containers around town.

A perennial sale will be held as part of the Legion Street Sale which take place some time in June. Proceeds from the perennial sale will will be in aid of the construction of a public fountain by the library

7.0 **New Business**

- 7.1 Rod Winder and Dick Baker are proposing the construction of a second scow this summer. If so, Rod and Dick want to know if funding would be available to pay somebody to do the work. It is also felt that the construction of a tripod to help shift the scows would be desirable. The tripod would be a replica of the tripods use by the original scow builders.

Rod and Dick will come back with budget estimates for the April meeting.

- 7.2 The Billy Loutit Triathlon was featured as part of the Athabasca Winter Festival. All 21 participants will receive a t-shirt and a letter opener as mementos of the event. One of the entrants this year was Billy Loutit's grandson.

It was suggested at the February meeting that the Tracker's Pull be named after an historical figure in a like manner to the Billy Loutit Triathlon. Greg Johnson suggests that a likely name is Julian Cardinal who was the head tracker at Athabasca Landing for a number of years.

- 8.0 **Next Regular Meeting:** Monday, April 19, 2004, 7:00PM, 2nd Floor Duniece Building