

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHABASCA HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2005**

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM by Jerry Maclean  
In attendance were: Iola Bartja, Severna Bosik, Bertha Clark Jones, Bert Lachman, Richard Loken, Jerry Maclean, Elaine Magusin, Christine Nelson, Marilyn Peruniak, Frank Ponto, Ann Stiles.
- 2.0 **Agenda:** Two items are added to the agenda: Item 3.0A will be Iola Bartja speaking on behalf of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, and item 7.8 will be regarding the Oral History Workshop.  
Moved by Marilyn Peruniak, Seconded by Bertha Clark Jones, Carried.
- 3.0 Frank Ponto showed the promotional video that Alberta Tourism made from footage that they shot at the 2004 Magnificent River Rats Festival. The video was well received by the membership.
- 3.0A Iola Bartja from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation announced that the Alberta Government has introduced four new awards that can be applied for and nomination forms can be found on the web. The secretary has no more information in his minutes and could not find any information on the web. Anyone?
- 4.0 **Minutes:** The minutes are accepted as distributed.  
Moved by Bertha Clark Jones, Seconded by Elaine Magusin, Carried.
- 5.0 **Treasurer's report:** Severna submitted her treasurer's report and announced that she has one outstanding bill for Oral History Workshop expenses which is owed to Marilyn Peruniak.  
Moved by Severna Bosik, Seconded by Bert Lachman, Carried.
- 6.0 **Committee reports**
- 6.1 **Publicity, Fundraising, and Promotion:** No report.
- 6.2 **Heritage Site:** A letter has been sent to the Athabasca Town Council suggesting that the Town and the Society negotiate the transfer of the Society's land to the Town for inclusion in the Riverfront Project but there has been no reply.
- 6.3 **Trans Canada Trail:** No report.
- 6.4 **Newsletter:** No report.
- 6.5 **River Rats Festival:** Jerry Maclean attended the last Magnificent River Rats Festival meeting and the Athabasca Heritage Society RRF committee has met once.

Elaine Magusin and Jerry Maclean reported that the committee did some preliminary work on the event schedule which might include:

Trackers Pull on July 1

Horse drawn wagon tours for two days

Strawberry tea at the United Church

Other activities are in consideration, including demonstrations of blacksmithing, rug hooking, pottery, and native crafts. Some consideration has gone into selecting items that might be awarded or sold such as wooden whistles and rain ponchos.

There will be a number of purchases required for the 2005 MRRF including: one or more new belts for the Trappers Pull, a new extension cord, and a metal frame for the tent. Other potential expenses are the cash and merchandise prizes for the Trackers Pull.

The committee is hoping to ask Athabasca Pipelines Limited to provide financial sponsorship for the Trackers Pull.

6.6 **Membership:** No report.

6.7 **Web Site:** No report.

## 7.0 **Old Business**

7.1 **Multiplex Project:** Jerry Maclean attended the Multiplex Project fundraising kickoff event where he publicly announced the Athabasca Heritage Society's donations of land and money. Jerry also attended a recent meeting of the Riverfront Committee and reported that they had been approached by the Skateboard group and the Spray Park group who would like to place their facilities on the riverfront.

Discussion among the Society membership showed a lot of hostility to the idea of putting a skateboard bowl or a spray park within the boundaries of the Riverfront Project.

7.2 **West Athabasca School:** No report.

7.3 **Wiwchar House:** No report.

7.4 **Winterfest:** No report.

7.5 **Heritage Supper:** No report.

7.6 **River Breakup Lottery:** Severna Bosik applied for and received a permit to run another River Breakup Lottery, the tickets have been printed, and Severna has books of tickets that the Society members must rush out and peddle. It seems that the Chamber of Commerce wants to keep 25% of the profits for themselves and there was discussion among the members about the legality of this move.

- 7.7 **Quilt Insurance:** Jerry Maclean suggested that the Athabasca Heritage Society could free itself from the financial obligations associated with owning and displaying the quilts by transferring the ownership of quilts to one or more larger organizations such as the Town of Athabasca or Athabasca University.

Ann Stiles said that she had discussed this with the other artisans and her response is that the artisans made the quilts for the Athabasca Heritage Society and the ownership of the quilts is not transferable. Ann further said that the quilts are designed as a set and they should be displayed together to maintain the continuity of the story that they tell.

Further discussion of the insurance issue suggests that, although the local insurance agencies may be unable to insure unique artistic items such as these quilts, such items are obviously insured and we should look for appropriate insurers elsewhere. Ann will investigate this matter further and she will start by communicating with other organizations that own and display unique hand made quilts.

- 7.8 **Oral History Workshop:** Marilyn Peruniak reported that Judy Larmour led another Oral History Workshop on February 5, 2005. The course was full with 16 registrants but three registrants were refunded due to ill health on the day of the workshop.

The workshop cost \$819.03 to put on with registrations covering \$390.00 of the cost and the rest paid by the Alice B. Donohue Library and Archives (\$139.03), the Royal Canadian Legion (\$100.00), and the Athabasca Heritage Society (\$100.00).

There are no plans to put on another Oral History Workshop in the near future but the workshops have provided a significant service to the community and another workshop may be in order at some later date. Thirty local residents have attended the workshops.

## 8.0 **New Business**

- 8.1 **Ambassadors for the Athabasca Heritage Society:** Marilyn Peruniak feels that the list of Athabasca Heritage Site Ambassadors should be reviewed since Pierre Berton has died and Dominique Abrioux is leaving the community. Christine Nelson suggested that the list should be reviewed by an informal subcommittee and such a committee was immediately formed. The members of the subcommittee are: Bertha Clark Jones, Christine Nelson, and Marilyn Peruniak.

It was further suggested that a tea be held to honour Athabasca Heritage Site ambassador Dorothy Lane in the fall and that all the other ambassadors be invited to the tea.

9.0 **Next Regular Meeting:** Monday, April 11, 2005, 7:00PM, 2nd Floor Duniece Building