

# Strathcona Vintage Tractor Association

## EARLY SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

*Our club is into our 13th season of operation and we have already completed several activities and events. Attendance at our meetings has been good and so has our member's response to our events to things that we have scheduled. We still have lots of things to do and if you haven't been out this year so far, we encourage you to do so. As you read through this newsletter, make a note on your home calendar of dates and times so you don't forget what's happening. Members can expect more current information and updates to be sent out occasionally via email.*

**Little Giant Farm Motor Made in Edmonton** - The newspaper clipping below is from the *Edmonton Daily Bulletin* newspaper archives, dated April 26, 1915. Below the clipping and script is the information from the article which we have read through and translated in an easy-to-read version. Apparently, the Reynolds Alberta Museum has the remnants of one of these tractors. We're not sure how complete their tractor is but it certainly is an interesting bit of tractor history.



*It is not always the largest things or the ones that make the most noise that are of the greatest importance, for in the past few months, a few enthusiastic Edmonton men have been quietly working on and perfecting a little machine which they have called the Little Giant Farm Motor. A representative of the Bulletin recently had the opportunity of seeing this in operation, pulling two 14" ploughs in timothy, and although the entire tractor weighs less than 3000 pounds, it was turning over the ground in very easy order at the rate of an acre an hour.*

*The great beauty of this tractor is the adaptability it has, it being so arranged that one man can operate both the tractor and the plough owing to the arrangement of the self-lift plough. It can do a full day's breaking on ten gallons of gasoline. It stands on all four wheels and drives from both rear wheels. The question of*

*cost was discussed and we were surprised to find that the Little Giant Farm Motor can be manufactured in Edmonton to sell at \$1200. As has been previously said, this was constructed entirely in Edmonton by Messrs. W.H. Struthers, L.B. Marsh and Rolph Jacobus, who are doing business in town under the title of Central Auto Repair and who say that the original model has already been sold and they now have several orders in hand for immediate delivery.*

**General Meetings** - Our general meetings are held once every month from March through October on the third Wednesday at the Ardrossan Memorial Hall. The hall is located to the east of the new Ardrossan Recreation Center alongside Range Road 222 and south of highway 16E. Things always kick off at 7:00 PM and we sometimes have a special presentation of some sort in addition to the regular slate of business items on the agenda. Remaining dates for this year would be June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, and October 18. We welcome visitors and guests to attend our meetings, it is always nice to see some new faces in the crowd who might become new club members.

**Membership Renewals** - You can renew your club membership from last year at general meetings or by sending us a \$35.00 renewal cheque by postal mail. Last year's memberships expire at the end of June (three months after our year-end of March 31). Once your membership has expired, so does your 3rd party liability insurance coverage that is provided as part of your membership privileges. Director Bob Swizinski has taken over the membership duties from Sid Lyle who has done that for us for a good number of years. To renew by mail, send a \$35.00 cheque made out to SVTA to the following address:

SVTA - Box 3072 - Sherwood Park, AB. T8H 2T1

**Field Trip to GC Custom Metal Fabrication** (May 8) - Just in case you think you've experienced your last field trip since public school, we have the solution to that and it happened in early May. About 20 club members paid a mid-afternoon visit to GC Custom Metal Fabrication on May 8. The trip was hosted by George Schmidt, his wife Charlene, and his two sons Darren and Steven.

GC manufactures a wide variety of metal products of all sizes in their modern facility, and we experienced how things really work since the shop crew were all there working on their projects and orders. What is amazing is that there is still a lot of hand work skills involved in a mostly computerized shop. After the visit, we were treated to some refreshments in the GC lunchroom. Thanks to the Schmidt family for hosting us, and if you have an idea about a trip that might be a possibility for us to take, let us know and we can try to fit it into our schedule.

**Alberta Trades Expo Competition** (May 11 & 12) - Every year, students from high school and post secondary trade schools across the province compete at the Northland's Expo Center in a competition which showcases their skills in over 40 different trades. Last year's event was cancelled when the Expo Center was used as a center to house those affected by the Fort McMurray wildfires, but this year's event was back bigger and better than ever.

One of our club's junior members competed in the carpentry competition in the high school category. Ryan Hood is a grade 12 student at Sturgeon Composite High School in Namao and his two-day project involved the construction of a back yard playhouse. Competitors arrive pretty much "cold turkey" and they don't know exactly what the project will be, but they soon find out after picking up a set of blueprints and away they go.

They have two days to complete the projects which are then judged by a team of mentors in that trade field. Ryan placed very well in his event (a top-ten placement in the province) and was one of only a handful of individuals that finished the project in the allotted time which, along with site safety,

accuracy, techniques and work habits, were combined into a final grade. Congratulations Ryan, if we ever need some carpentry advice out at Bremner, we'll know who to call on.

**Ernie's General Meeting Presentation** (May 17) - At our May general meeting, club member Ernie Shumansky gave an interesting and informative presentation on *Water Well Drilling, Equipment, and Maintenance*. Ernie has spent more years in the business than he wants to think about and with so many of our members living on acreages or farms, it was a great way to make sure we're on top of the basic principles of water well equipment and maintenance. After the presentation, we had a question & answer session which allowed members to find out specific answers to some of their own questions relating to their own water systems at home. If you would like to give a presentation of your own on any topic (remember, it does not have to be tractor-related), contact one of the executive and they can schedule you into a meeting spot. Thanks to Ernie for getting this done, it was an enjoyable evening which we all learned from.

**Josephburg Ag Society Farm Smarts Safety Camp** (May 25) - Our club participated as one of the presenting groups in the annual J-Burg event near the end of May at the Moyer Recreation Center. This is our fourth time we have been involved with this special day which this year provided informative safety information to grade 4 & 5 students from two Ardrossan elementary schools. The students visited 7 different stations on a rotation basis throughout the day, spending about 1/2 hour at each of the stations.

Our SVTA presentation was about farm and acreage safety issues and accident prevention with tractor PTO's, grain augers and bins, and yard mowers. Display equipment was provided by the Josephburg people and also Deerland Equipment Sales in Fort Saskatchewan. SVTA members who spent the day there included George Schmidt, Al Gregoire, Ellis Kumpula, Bob Swizinski, and Ken Bodell. Other safety stations included Large Animal Safety (Ft. Saskatchewan 4H Club), Chemical/Skin Safety (Shell Canada), Home Fire Safety (Strathcona Fire Dept), Train Safety (CN), Hearing Safety (Pembina Pipelines) and Wildfire Prevention (Strathcona Fire Dept).

**Standing Guard Stallion Arrives** - The stallion from "Standing Guard", Strathcona County's latest public art piece, arrived on May 11, 2017 at THE RCMP and Enforcement Services location at 911 Bison Way. The stallion is 'standing guard' for his family and community. The display is comprised of a mare and foal looking on and another mare grazing. These three additional horses will be delivered in the summer and fall of 2017. Canmore artist, Cedar Mueller creates these beautiful animals from recycled metal including car parts, tools and sheet metal. Cedar grew up on a farm in the Chilcotin Region of British Columbia and spent most of her childhood on the back of her horse. She loves to recreate the beauty and unique and invigorating energy of horses.

Our club participated in a small way to the project. Cedar picked up some odds and ends from our scrap pile out at Bremner. She also visited club member Ken Tomkin's farm and did much better after going through Ken's collection of farm machinery. Thanks for the help with this Ken. Strathcona County invites you to visit the latest equine resident of Strathcona County and watch for the arrival of the rest of the herd!

**Seeding the West 40 at Bremner** (May 27) - Great weather after an early-week rain welcomed our farm crew on Saturday, May 27 for seeding this year's crop which will be barley (for the first time). We've been oat farmers for the past few years. Some plowing needed to be done earlier in the north end where last year's stubble was pretty thick, and then the whole west field was disked in preparation for seeding. Things went well, our two vintage seeders worked well and the job was finished in one

day. Our calculations show that we seeded about 32 acres of barley split between the south and north ends. We left about 7 acres of summer fallow in the middle section.

The boys also planted a crop of potatoes (150 pounds of seed spuds) which will be on the east side of the field between the dugout and the hay field fence. Leo Bilodeau headed up the work crew again and his helpers were George Schmidt, Don Hood, Ray Schmidt, Tom Speedie, Mark Bailey, Wayne Sloat, Val Shillinglaw, Joe Radke, Lou Normandeau, Stan Podulsky, Merv Schmidt, Dave Anderson, and Chad McConnell. A big thank you goes out to all of these individuals, several of who brought out their own tractors and used their own fuel.

**Some Country Humour** - Henry came in for lunch from his field work and could tell that his wife had again been feeding the local tramps who seemed to make a regular habit of dropping in mid-morning. She just couldn't seem to say no to anyone who was down and out. He said to her, *"I don't understand why you feed every free loader who drops by the house, they never do any work around here to earn their meals."* His wife thought for a minute and then replied, *"I do it for a very simple reason Henry. It's the only time that I make a nice meal and nobody complains about my cooking."*

**Roadside Cleanup Fundraisers** (May 13 & June 3) - This year, Roman Sadauskas organized two Saturdays for our roadside cleanup fundraising efforts. The first one was on a miserable and wet May 13 morning when we cleaned up ditches alongside 17th street in an industrial area. The going was pretty tough that day and some of the group didn't finish up until mid-afternoon. Later on, the weather cooperated for the June 3 cleanup along the Josephburg Road. Surprisingly we had 13 show up for the first Saturday and only 8 for the June effort.

Thanks to Roman for getting this done for us again, he puts in a lot of extra time organizing things, picking up equipment, hauling the junk to the drop off site, and then taking the supplies back to the county yards. In addition to Roman, others involved this year were Leo Bilodeau, Mel Clark, Matt Janus, Quentin Janus, Mark Bailey, Sid & Alexander Lyle, Helmuth Ritter, Ellis Kumpula, Dave Anderson, George Schmidt, Val Shillinglaw, Mike Ballash, Lou Normandeau, Myrell Keller, John Van de Ligt, Ray Schmidt and Bob Swizinski. Some of those members used their own trucks and acted as group captains. Thanks to all for your help boys in raising about \$1600 for the club.

**2017 SVTA Tractor Pull and Show** - The pull committee people have been meeting on a regular basis and putting things into order for our 13th annual event which we now refer to as the Western Canada Vintage Tractor Pull and Show. It will be held at the Bremner Farm on August 26 and 27, one week before the Labour Day weekend. At our last general meeting, Ellis Kumpula had his volunteer work sheets out and members have already started to fill in the spaces for all of the duties that are necessary for a successful event. If you can't make it out to our next meeting on June 21 and you wish to put your name down for a work shift or two, phone Ellis at 780-922-6120 and he can help you out. More information to come over the next two months as the pull weekend approaches.

+++++

So that's the tractor club news for now, another edition will be out after our August pull and show. If you wish to see the email version of this newsletter which includes photos of our activities, visit our website at [strathconavintagetractor.com](http://strathconavintagetractor.com). We hope you can make it out to our next general meeting on June 21. In the meantime, HAPPY TRACTORING and remember that a college education never hurt anyone as long as they're willing to learn

something useful afterwards !!!