

# THE WHEATLAND ROUNDUP

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## LITTLE BIG TOWN IS A LITTLE TOWN ON THE RISE

Little Big Town, Sk - The once the middle of nowhere town of Little Big Town is becoming a hub of tourism and travel, but that comes with increased outlaw activity and treasure hunters says Sheriff Presper Breakstone.

Once a quaint little rail town, Little Big Town has flourished in the last decade under the leadership of Mayor Quincy Calloway. Expanding far across the open Saskatchewan Prairie. "Public works projects are in full swing and the economy is in the best shape it has ever been since I took office," Said Mayor Calloway "That layabout Conrad Fillmore, was never fit to be mayor and I proved it!"

Perhaps it also has to do with the recent stimulation that comes from the Wheatland family fortune as The Wheatland Express has set a line through town. Many say that there may be further expansion as Maximillion Wheatland, the son of the Wheatland CEO, has been seen in and around Little Big Town.

When asked about the recent discovery of discrepancies in the budget and an influx of transient miners on the train, the mayor had this to say "There is no illegal gemstone and gold mine in town, whoever



has been spreading these salacious rumors must be put in the stocks!" "Also Vote Calloway" Added the Mayor.

But even the upcoming election cannot put the looming threat of recent outlaw activity in the area to rest. Sheriff Breakstone assures the public that The LaChance Gang, led by the infamous Outlaw Lucky LaChance will no longer be harassing travelers any longer. "There definitely was an upswing of train robberies in the last 6 months, but my deputies and I have run that so-called gang out of the area," says Sheriff Breakstone. The Sheriff does ask that anyone please report any sightings of the LaChance gang to his office.

In exciting news, many rumors have recently been unearthed about the lost treasure of Ulysses McGillitcutty. As many of us know, Old Man McGillitcutty was found dead outside of the livery stables a few months ago. Some interesting reports

have come in that he may have hid his illustrious fortune somewhere in Little Big Town. This has caused treasure hunters to come from all over Canada, The Provisional Districts, and even parts of The United States to search for gold! Keep an eye out for clues as the treasure could be anywhere, but Georgina "George" Keeler has asked that folks stop digging up her fields, she assures us that there is no treasure out there.

The recent growth of Little Big Town has also caused a whole crop of new businesses to open up! Aristole Buringham will be setting up a cure-all and pancreas shop on main street in the coming weeks, PHIL'S has announced an expansion to the Little Big Saloon, Dr. Cedrick Nickleby has come in from Regina to start a practice (No more home dentistry for us folks!) as well as the acclaimed Hazel Star, who has set up a

Palmistry business in the North End of town. We have even heard reports that famed singer Molly Martin has been sighted in town as well as Creedence Clearwater Revival, famed Singing With Sylvia, and The Eagles.

For those of you who would call yourself gourmands, there is one final exciting announcement, famed Chef Theodore Favaro has been hired on as the onboard chef for the Wheatland Express. This means there will be delicious culinary treats available onboard select rides this summer. Famed socialite Adeline St. Laurent has declared she will be partaking in a meal or two.

For More information about any of the above announcements please visit me at the Round-Up Office.

Matilda Walsh, Chief Editor of the  
Wheatland Round-Up, June 21st, 1892

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## Joseph John Marcel Pellerin

Marcel Joined CN rail at a very young age as a call boy calling train crews to work. Very few folks at the time had telephones and each crew member had to be contacted to be told when they were ordered and for what train. A function that continues today by phone. Marcel advanced to work as a checker, a person that takes inventory of yard tracks and trains. This function now of course is done electronically by in track readers and iPads. Soon he was switching those same cars and eventually. working as a yardmaster instructing the switch crews what cars to switch. He was promoted to Trainmaster responsible for all train and yard operations in Saskatoon. In total 44 years of service to CN rail .

A curler, a carpenter, and a pretty good card player but most of all a great Husband, dad, and Grandpa. His greatest advice was Treat people like you like to be treated something we all should remember these days .

Passed away January 28th 1998

A plaque fixed to a Wheel set bench is in Cudworth to remember Marcel's contribution to the development of Saskatchewan's Railway system.

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## Mark "Little Elvis" Pellerin

November 22, 1967 – November 21, 2014

*GSR Locomotive Engineer*



*"You Will Always Be With Us"*



# NOBLE NOTATION

## GRAMPA'S LANTERN

Written by Bill Noble

"Bill, I have a question for you. We were cleaning out my Grampa Jim's basement and came across an old lantern or lamp hanging in the rafters. A guy at the office said it looked like a railroad lantern. I Googled it and got Trainman's Lantern. I've got a picture on my cell. It's got CPR on the glass part. Can you tell me about it?"



"It", of course is a railway lantern. It has a clear glass globe; therefore, it is a Brakeman's, Trainman's or Switchman's lantern. It was a vital tool. Everyone who worked on or around trains had such a lantern to signal other workers at night. In the days before radios all signaling between workers was done by locomotive whistle or hand signal. The workers on the ground - brakemen or trainmen who traveled with the train or switchmen who worked in railway yards - did the important but hazardous work of coupling/uncoupling couplers and air brake hoses, operating track switches and guiding the engineer when or how far to proceed when coupling or positioning



cars. For example, the brakeman's signal to go forward was to wave his arm up and down; an arm moved in a big circular motion meant back up. The engineer's response - two toots "going forward", three toots "backing up". A range of toots and waves formed a vocabulary of signals for all requirements - standardized across the railways of North America. At night, movement of the lantern transmitted the signals. The clear glass light identified a brakeman at work keeping everyone safe.

As the world moved into the twentieth century, the ever-growing network of railways required more and more lanterns of various kinds. Several other manufacturers were established, including the Canadian Hiram L. Piper Ltd. Growing out of a decades old family tinsmith business, Piper set up a factory in Montreal in 1902 and, as the licensed manufacturer for Adlake designs, became the major lantern and signal lamp maker for Canada's railways.

Lamps and lanterns succeeded candles as sources of light. Railroads were naturally early users of such devices as they sought to operate their trains through the night. In 1865, William Westlake of Chicago invented a robust, practical lantern that employed a 6-inch tall glass globe and burned signal oil, which was an early petroleum derivative. Westlake's lantern proved popular with railroads and Westlake and his partner, a man named Adams, started a company called Adlake. This company exists today as a high tech, specialty manufacturing concern. But

they maintain a small corner of their company that still manufactures classic railroad lanterns and spare parts for collectors.

Another development, Kerosene, arrived in the early years of the new century. This fuel replaced earlier oils and became the fuel of choice. Kerosene burned more cleanly, with less smoke and soot and produced a clearer, more consistent light that was easier to see and produced truer colours when used with coloured globes. Kerosene also burned better in shorter (3 ¼ inch tall), smaller globed lanterns and in about 1920, Adlake introduced the Adlake Number 400 “Kero” which rapidly became the industry standard. Piper catalogues of the era describe the “Kero” as compact, strong and easy to clean. The lantern would burn for eighteen hours on a single filling and could function reliably at all temperatures and in a ninety mile an hour wind

The classic brakeman’s lantern was found in every part of railway operations, whether they were used for signaling or simply to light the way for workers in the dark. A specialized version of the lantern, shown below, is the “bull’s-eye” lantern, which had an additional lens, fixed to one side of the wire cage around the globe. The bull’s-eye provided a focused beam of light for car knockers - car inspectors - who ensured the safety of car brakes and running gear and worked day or night. The bull’s-eye also

enabled railway yard workers to read and record car serial numbers every night to track car movements and keep track of shipments.

A final chapter in the story of brakeman’s lantern began in the early 1950’s with the introduction of battery-powered lanterns, shown above. While these lanterns were more expensive than kerosene lanterns and their six-volt dry cell batteries were heavy, they did provide a brighter light that could be seen more easily. An additional, not so widely advertised advantage, was that they didn’t burn your arm when you climbed the ladder up the side of a boxcar.

Grampa Jim’s lantern has quite a story to tell us - about how such a simple device was absolutely vital in ensuring the safe operation of trains for almost one hundred and fifty years.



Photo of Bull’s-eye Lantern



Photo of Battery Lantern

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# SPIKES SAFETY SCOOP

Hey there, I'm Spike the Safety Dog! School is out so it's time to take out your bikes, skateboards and scooters for some summer fun! My friend, Gainer, and I get so excited when we get to ride around all day, but you can never be too careful while riding around railway tracks. It's very easy to get your wheels caught in the train tracks when you ride your bike, scooter or skateboard across them! This is why you should always get off and walk across the tracks and only use proper railway crossings. There are a few other things you should always remember while having your summer fun: always look both directions before crossing the tracks and only cross if there are no trains coming, always wear a helmet while riding your bike, skateboard or scooter and never play on around the railway tracks! Now that you know how to stay rail smart this summer, I'm going to see if Gainer wants to go ride our skateboards at the park! Have a fun summer!



-Spike the safety dog

Unscramble the letters to reveal the word with  
Spike

PKEIS

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AITNR

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TYESAF

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KASTCR

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LEBL

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ONHR

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# OPERATIONS UPDATE

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## Wheatland Express Safety Train

As this 2020/2021 school year comes to an end, the Wheatland Express Safety Train would like to thank all teachers and their classes who participated in our Railway Safety Program using Zoom and Google Classroom. We were able to deliver railway safety presentations to 18 classrooms and over 350 members of our target audience. Being our first year launching this online program, we are overjoyed for not only the number of teachers and classes who participated, but the different range of provinces across Canada that we were able to reach. We hope that next year is just as good, if not better of the number of classes and students participating! Thank you to everyone who took part in our program, and we hope everyone has a great and safe summer!



## Wheatland Express Learning Centre

We are extremely excited to announce the complete installation of our wheelchair lift in one of the cars that will be part of our learning center! This way, we are able to have more members of our target audience come out and enjoy the learning center and its' many exhibits. Along with the installation of the wheelchair lift, we now have most of the audio and video installed in the learning center cars and can now focus on the details of the installation of our many exhibits! We cannot wait for the grand opening of our Learning Center, and we can't wait to see everyone out there!



## Great Sandhills Railway

We hired another employee this month, welcoming Ryan Hoffman to the group . We will be adding another summer student in July which should bring us up to 15 full time employees reporting out of Cudworth. That does not include folks that work on the excursion train itself . Work continues on the track as we installed 256 railway ties. Surfacing began the week of June 28th during the night due to extreme heat. Work will continue on the Western town as the first building will be Early's seed and feed . Some final touch ups on the current rail cars will be completed. The next rail car to be worked on will be the baggage car. It will house a surround theatre , inter active displays, and a stage room for Spike.



## Wheatland Charities Inc.

We had our first Train Heist excursion last Sunday and want to thank all the guests who participated in the "robbery" and donated to the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation. We will be keeping everyone informed of all money raised from the Train Heist Excursions and can't wait to "rob" more of you.

June 27th Excursion raised - \$530

YTD Total -

\$530





## Wheatland Express Excursion Train

Excitement and anticipation

fills the air as Wheatland

Express gears up for its first excursion on

June 27th that will start off this fun-filled

2021 season. We are also overjoyed to

experience our first private function

celebrating a milestone 75th birthday on June

30th. In addition to our excursions, we

welcome with open arms our new staff who have

joined our team this year, and we are thrilled

to see their talents and skills shine through.

Alongside our team, we are proud to have the

opportunity to work with our incredible

actors and actresses who do outstanding jobs with each and every performance they give. We are

looking forward to seeing our returning customers and greeting our new customers. All aboard

the Wheatland Express, we hope this season will be as fun for you as we hope it to be for us!



Did you know some trains have a  
second locomotive that pushes the  
train forward from the back ?



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## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

**Name:** Jamie Hartmann

**Born:** Saskatoon, Sask.

**Currently Reside:** Saskatoon, Sask.

**Work History:** Trained racehorses before coming to  
The Wheatland Express

**Favorite Movie:** Seabiscuit

**Favorite Sports Team Racehorse:** Zenyatta

**Favorite Wheatland railcar:** GSR 2021/2022

**Did you know:** Up until this issue Jamie has designed and edited all previous volumes of The Wheatland Roundup. She is busy creating the on-board program for the summer so we are taking over this duty for her.



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## STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH

### HOW TIMBIT SEE'S IT

Neigh there. I am Timbit, a reporter for the Wheatland Round-Up my job is to keep the folks of Little Big Town updated to the goings-on on all things four-legged. Although this week we have some new two-legged additions to the farm and since Tommy and Jerry are out on their first excursion, I thought I would go introduce myself.

Hello there, I am Timbit what are your names?

"I am Lola, and this is my partner Bugs."  
Explains Lola.

Nice to meet you, I must ask what kind of hair is that?

"Well, I am a chicken, and he is a rooster, so we have feathers." Informs Lola

Oh, I see. Bugs there have been a few noise complaints since you have moved into the neighborhood do you have to make that sound so early and often?

"Well yes I do, you see I am in charge of waking up the farm and making sure everyone is up for breakfast." Says Bugs

Breakfast isn't till 7 am, and once we get it you could give it a rest.



"Well, I also have to let all the other roosters know this is my territory and my chick."  
States Bugs

There are no other roosters around buddy, just you!

"I think he sounds glorious." Says Lola

I have noticed you have the weirdest poops; it must hurt to poop those big white things.

"You haven't been off the farm much have you there Timbit, those are called eggs and they feed the people who feed us." Explains Lola

They do not eat my poop.

"For good reason, it smells awful!" Announces Bugs

Here come Tommy and Jerry back from work going to see how it went. See you later.

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# 2021 WHEATLAND EXPRESS SCHEDULE

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Wheatland Express is committed to re-opening as soon as conditions permit us to do so. Here's a glimpse of what we have planned for you so far in 2021! Had tickets for 2020? Your tickets are valid for rescheduled tour dates. Ticket holders can expect to receive an e-mail from us with event updates and options if they cannot make the 2021 date.



## JUNE

27- Prairie Train Heist Excursion



## JULY

03- Prairie Train Heist Excursion  
04- Prairie Train Heist Excursion  
10 - Cowboy Showdown & Country Cookout  
11 - Murder on the Wheatland Express Excursion  
17 - Eagles Tribute Excursion & Dinner Show  
18 - Prairie Train Heist Excursion  
24 - Murder on the Wheatland Express Excursion  
25 - Family Summer Express Excursion



## AUGUST

04- Prairie Train Heist Excursion  
08 - Prairie Train Heist Excursion  
13 - Family Summer Express Excursion  
14 - New On Board Dinner Show  
15 - Prairie Train Heist Excursion  
21- New On Board Dinner Show  
22 - Murder on the Wheatland Express Excursion  
28 - CCR Reprisal - CCR Tribute Excursion & Dinner Show  
29 - Family Summer Express Excursion



STAY TUNED FOR ADDED DATES, TOURS  
AND TRAVEL OFFERS!

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[www.wheatlandexpresstrain.ca](http://www.wheatlandexpresstrain.ca)