

## Contact a Board Member

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*We Are Open*

Schedule and events.... and there's no admission!

The museum is open from June 3rd to September 4th for the year 2017.

Hours of operation on Saturdays are 10:00 am to 4:30 pm; Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00; and Mondays long weekend only.



## Update to the Brier Rose Cultural Centre....

The Brier Rose Cultural Centre was relocated to its new, permanent home on the museum grounds in the spring of 2015. Formerly the Peachey House, the Brier Rose Cultural Centre is in recognition to Briercrest's most notable poet and speaker, Edna Jaques. Edna moved with her family from Ontario to a homestead near Briercrest in 1902. She began writing at a young age and her first poem was published when she was 14 years old. Edna's work gained prominence right across Canada in the 1930's, and her poem "In Flanders Now" was placed in a chapel at Arlington Cemetery near Washington, DC. The Centre contains many Edna Jaques artifacts including collections of

her poetry. The Brier Rose Centre is open during regular museum operating hours and during the week by request.

Please contact **Jacqueline Coulter** by phone 306.799.4414 or by email [tcoulter@sasktel.net](mailto:tcoulter@sasktel.net).



## TOURS & EVENTS

In addition, the museum is open to tours by appointment, and a light lunch is also available upon request. For further information, bookings or pricing contact **Carol Holizki** at 306.799.4424 or by email [hoterrafarms@sasktel.net](mailto:hoterrafarms@sasktel.net)

The museum could not operate without the hundreds of volunteer hours or the artifacts for viewing by donation or loan. If you are interested in volunteering, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the board.

The museum is approved for charitable registration under the Income Tax Act. Receipts can now be issued for cash donations.

The Briercrest Heritage Day has now become an annual event with other local organizations contributing to a full day of activity and fun. Held every second Saturday in June, this year's event is on June 10th. We have live, old-time music, demonstrations including rope-

making and butter churning. Talents of a local blacksmith, Larry Paysen, and cowboy poet, Fred Cockburn will be there for your interest and enjoyment. There are children's activities, slo-pitch tournament, antique and classic vehicles and equipment displays with food services on the museum grounds, homemade pie in the parlor, and an evening steak supper and family dance. Please use contacts provided on the museum website ([www.briercrestmuseum.ca](http://www.briercrestmuseum.ca)) if you would like to purchase tickets, enter a ball team or the Show and Shine, or obtain any additional information.

The Fall Supper, our museum's largest yearly fundraiser, is held in partnership with the Briercrest Centre Board. This year's event is scheduled for Sunday, October 15. Please save the date, check out our website and contact **Marge Cleave** for more information.

## BRIERCREST & DISTRICT MUSEUM CORPORATION

*"Rediscovering the Rooms of Time"*

## 2017 Newsletter

## Our Story Continues....

The Briercrest and District Museum is the culmination of a vision by a community dedicated to the preservation of the local history of homesteaders and businessmen. The importance of historical preservation at any level - local, provincial, national, global - cannot be understated, and perhaps this simple statement by John Steinbeck, *Grapes of Wrath*, expresses it best, "How will we know it's us without our past?" There is a great deal to know about the Village of Briercrest and the surrounding communities at the museum from educational and religious institutions to service clubs and organizations and from trade and commerce to agriculture. Closure of the school in the village occurred in 2007 and when no long-term plans for the building came forward, resourceful individuals explored the idea of

converting the former school into a local museum. With the help of the community and generous support of local contractors modifications of the building began, and over the course of the year 2011 artifacts were transferred from the old museum to the new location. Themes began to emerge as each classroom housed various collections from the "General Store" to "Anderson's Ice Cream Parlor" and from the "Old Farmyard" to the "Military Room". Now reflections of days past are represented in the museum in the "Dairy Room", "Home Sweet Home", "Ironworks and Electrical", "Old School House", "Services and Sports" and "Junior High". "The Co-op Repurpose Store" contains new, used and consignment items for sale.

More recently, the former principal's office and adjoining room has been converted to a room of reflection, "The Chapel". One room contains several items from the Briercrest United Church which was closed and demolished in 2013. The original wooden doors have been reconstructed and installed in the church collection



*From the home of Alex and Dorothy Boan.....*

The family of Dorothy (Holtby) Boan were Barr Colonists from England. We would like to include a Holtby family recipe for scones. This is her recipe directly from the Boan reunion cookbook in celebration of 100 years in Saskatchewan (1886 - 1986).

**Holtby Scones**

**Combine:**

2 cups flour  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 cup sugar  
4 tsp baking powder and  
1/4 tsp cream of tartar  
1/4 pound lard or shortening  
1/4 - 1/2 cup milk  
2 eggs

**Add:**

1/2 cup raisins  
Roll out on floured board.  
Cut in triangles. Sprinkle with sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg.

**Bake at 350 for 10 minutes.**

This recipe for candy was from Alex Boan's mother.

### Butterscotch Candy

1 cup white sugar  
2 tsp cold water  
1 cup corn syrup  
1 inch thick slice of butter  
Vanilla, and a pinch of salt  
Boil 1/2 hour. Pour in buttered pan.

One cannot have a Scottish husband without a good recipe for oatmeal cookies!

### Oatmeal Cookies

3 cups rolled oats  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp baking soda  
3 cups flour  
2 tsp salt  
1 1/2 cups lard  
3/4 cup cold water (or less).

Roll out with rolled oats on board instead of flour. Bake 350.



## Our Story Continues....

room. In the chapel the original stained glass window rests on the window ledge, reflecting its colors throughout the room. In addition items from the Blue Hill United Church are on display, notably the organ played by Jim Gibbs for decades, along with the colorful story of the purchase and transport of that instrument. There is a wall hanging dedicated to Vera Weddige. This hand-crafted quilt was commissioned by her family and created by Linda Sempel, Karen Runzer and Grace Gibbs. Many of the artifacts in

this room were originally donated by homesteaders to their place of worship in the village and surrounding area.

Another new development is the Country Creator "Artisan's Shop". This on-site outlet presents craftspeople, artists and makers with an opportunity to display their handcrafted items and art on commission, enabling visitors purchase unique items. For further details, contact **Sharon Duncan** (email: [mjs\\_1143@hotmail.com](mailto:mjs_1143@hotmail.com)).

## Featuring Alex and Dorothy Boan and the Briercrest Rural Telephone Company ...

The museum continues to evolve as new displays are created. Wall murals and recently constructed false store fronts add visual appeal as you make your way down the hallway much the same as if you were strolling down Main Street in the Village of Briercrest several decades ago.

Many of us, I'm sure, recall the "party lines" of days past. The Village of Briercrest and surrounding community were fortunate to have the services of Alex and Dorothy Boan delivering the communication services of those days.

By today's standards, telephone services were more primitive. Most homes had a large wooden telephone, often a "Northern Electric", with the earpiece cradled on one side above a small black button, a crank on the

opposite side with the mouthpiece on the front. On the wall beside the phone was usually hung a local listing of all the telephone numbers of the local exchange. Each line had a number, and each home on that line had a separate number. If for instance your phone number was 2 ring 3 - it meant you were on line 2, and the ring (3) would differentiate your number from another on the party line. A caller could ring up a number on your local line by cranking long and/or short rings. To speak to someone outside your party line, you had to call "central" who was the switchboard operator and give either the name or number and you would be connected. Dorothy Boan was "central" for the Briercrest Telephone Company beginning in 1932. The family located to the

## Briercrest Rural Telephone Company Continued...



Picture of Alex and Dorothy Boan at the switchboard

telephone office as someone had to be near to the switchboard at all hours. The Boans' operated the telephone office until 1972 when the Briercrest central became an automated service with dial phones. Alex and Dorothy Boan were forebears of Facebook.

They could give the hours of operation for a local business, deliver a message on behalf of a friend, tell you the time and location of a bridal shower or a funeral, listen to your troubles when you went to pay your phone bill or alert the whole community in the event of a disaster or crisis by a general ring (8 long rings that went out to all who had a phone in their home).

We contacted Jack Boan for a personal story of his parents, Alex and Dorothy Boan. Jack wrote, "I haven't thought of an anecdote featuring Mom, but I have one for Dad. She adored him, and wouldn't mind at all if he stole the lime light - at least for this one time".

So, according to Jack, an account of Alex Boan as he "troubleshoots" a problem: "In 1942, when he was 55, my father took on the job of telephone lineman. He was persuaded by the desperate telephone Board of Directors who couldn't find a replacement for Archie McCaskill, because of the manpower shortage during the war. He knew absolutely nothing about telephones, but he learned quickly, getting some advice from Gene Peachey, another local who had had some experience as the lineman. Before long, Dad was quite proficient, employed a native ingenuity that had been latent until challenged. For example, one day he was driving slowly down the road south of town, looking at the telephone line and spotted the likely reason it was out of order. It seemed a mallard duck had flown headlong straight in the telephone line, hitting one wire, and causing

it to wrap itself around the other line, with the duck's green head caught between. So there it hung, with the lines completely crossed in a noose, causing the short circuit. This stretch of telephone line went across a large slough that was dry most of the time but happened to be full of water, in places more than two feet deep, with the telephone poles being at least a hundred feet away from the road. There was no way to reach the crossed lines, short of a skyhook. Dad turned the car around and raced home, grabbed his Marlin 12-gauge, and with one shot dropped the drake into the water. The lines, relieved of that impediment, quickly unraveled, and the telephone service was restored."

We invite you to tour the museum where you will find an example of an old telephone switchboard.



Back: Beth Whitfield, Audrey Tysdal, Jacqueline Coulter, Becky Jaques  
Front: Eileen Skelton, Dorothy Boan, Dorothy Jaques (seated), Alex Boan