

LEBRET CULTURAL DAYS COMMITTEE
DRAFT OF MINUTES FROM MAY MEETING

MAY 24, 2004

Attendance :

Al Blondeau

Willie Blondeau

Nelson Kingston

Delia Morrison

Bernard Trip

Ina Trip

Missing :

Ralph Blondeau

Lois Bondeau

Denise Lagace

Gerard Lagace

1. MEETINGS: Minutes from April 24 meeting were read by Nelson & carried Willie Blondeau. The meeting could not be held at the hall today because recent rain and improper road maintenance have made the roads on the farm impassable.

2. PROGRAM: The program for the Master of Ceremonies would have to be developed and forwarded to Murray Hamilton.

This to be completed at the next meeting. Committee members should put some thought into what is required and forward to Al or Nelson. A similar thing will have to be done for Ron Rivard

The organizing committee advised that the second draft of the program is satisfactory. It was pointed out that it is important that the time table be adhered to as the late running of the chuck/chariot races last year interfered with other events. This annoyed many of the Cultural Days attendees. Last year many of the event Coordinators went to a wedding leaving no one to ensure continuity of the Cultural Days events was maintained. The committee will have to develop a plan to ensure the program is completed and is on schedule.

3. FACILITY: A second letter was sent to Gary Bedore, chairperson of the Farmland Board regarding access to the Metis Farm and setting up a training program to get required facility upgrades complete. The committee has been advised verbally by Gary Bedore that there is no problem with the Cultural Days Committee accessing the Metis Farm or any of it's buildings in preparing the site for the Cultural Days celebration. Bernard reported that the gate & No Trespassing signs were to keep people who don't have permission from entering the site and causing trouble.

The committee has tried to hold the last three or four meetings in the hall at the farm but has not been able to get into the hall. The committee requested a key and has been advised Gary & the hired man - Fred, there is only remaining key for the hall is in Ralph Blondeau's possession. Attempts to get Ralph to attend Committee meeting or obtain the key have been unsuccessful. Al assures that there will be no problem obtaining a key to get the hall ready for Cultural Days. The meetings in June will be

primarily used to get the hall and grounds ready.

Bernard Trip will bring up to the Farmland Foundation Board that the roadways need to be graveled so they are passable. This is also needed so the school bus can pick up the children living on the farm. Al or Willie will also ask Maurice to support Bernard's motion at the meeting.

Gerard Lagace has some fluorescent lights that he is willing to install as soon as a key for the hall can

be obtained.

Johnny Fayant has volunteered to spray-text the ceiling once someone has installed gyprock & tape the joints.

Gerard will advise how many 18 ft, 2" x 12" planks will be required to build the bleachers for behind the hall so letters requesting donation of materials can be sent to Ipsco & Fries Tallman.

There has been no reply from Paul Tourond - Area Director, District 3 Metis Nation of Sask or Lorna Docken. Provincial Director regarding the establishment of a Carpentry Training program to improve buildings and structures on the Metis Farm. Willie and Al will follow up on the letters to see what if anything will be initiated by Lebret Farmland Foundation Inc.

Arrangements will have to be made to get the race track dragged before the chuck/chariot races can be held. The committee was advised that the farm's tractor is broke down and is in need of repairs.

The 'Utilities/Pipelines,Crossing & Lease' Section of the Dept of Highways has not confirmed if road access off number 10 highway can be used to access the farm site for the Cultural Days. Nelson will continue following up with them. He also contacted the 'Development Next to Highways' Section of the Dept regarding the Cairn but they haven't responded to his inquiry.

4. VOLUNTEERS: The letter was sent to Patricia Fayant from the Cultural Days Committee acknowledging the Lebret Local's participation and attendance at Cultural Days meetings as well the letter requested that the local provide a letter of support to committee's organizing of the 2004 Cultural Days. Denise's telephone calls and messages have been unsuccessful in getting a response from Patricia.

All volunteers should be invited to the June 12 meeting so they can be asked to assist in getting the hall and grounds ready. Work parties will have to be organized to get the work done. They asked /advised at this meeting as to what job they are willing to commit.

5. Volunteer support has been offered by;

- Cottage owners (Olefson, McDonald, Leader, Tourond)
- Dorothy Blondeau, Fred & Elaine Blondeau, Tanya Jakubowski
- Ina Trip & Darcy Schultz
- Michelle Jones, Phyllis Kingston
- Patricia Fayant
- Paddy Fay
- Joy LaFramboise

6. FUNDING: The application to the Gabriel Dumont Technical Institute has been denied. They will not be providing any funding what so ever. Their review Committee's reason was because there is no longer any continuity within the Lebret Farmland Foundation Inc so they have elected to disburse this year's funds to other cultural events.

Geordie McCaffrey has advised he could make a \$ 1000 grant form his budget available if the Committee wants to reapply for it. Willie will apply this week.

Al will do personal contacts this week with the Crowns and other organizations to whom he has written. He is to offer them an opportunity to sponsor a particular segment of the program - entertainment, Chuckwagon/Chariot Races, breakfast, luncheon, supper, etc. Karen Smith of SaskEnergy has confirmed receipt of his letter. She asked to whom a cheque should be made out to if they make a donation.

Al & Nelson will get a letter of request put together that will be sent to Ralph Goodale asking for financial support from the Federal Government for the Lebert Cultural Days.

7. ENTERTAINMENT: Johnny Fayant has confirmed receipt of the letter sent to him by the committee to provide the entertainment at the Cabarets for \$ 4000 for both Friday & Saturday.

8. Marilyn Gibson should be invited to attend the June 19 committee meeting to sign a contract with the Chuck/Chariot group. By then we should know if we will sufficient funds to provide the \$ 3000 they require to perform at the Cultural Days.

Joy LaFramboise of the Riel Reelers has agreed to coordinate the jiggging demonstration. The Reelers have volunteered to dance at this years event. Al will ask her what she requires to ensure the demonstration is successful and what the Reelers need for their portion of the program.

Ina Trip advised that they do not want to provide animals for the Sheep riding & pig wrestle because of the problems the farm has had with the SPCA and animal rights activist. They are willing to bring some small horses, colt and few sheep for the children to see and pet. Before they commit to bringing the animals the barn on the farm will have to be in satisfactory condition to house the animals. It's their understanding that the barn was gutted to accommodate cattle and that there are no pens or corrals left inside.

9. FOOD:Paddy Fay should be invited to the June 12 to give the committee some direction as to what has to be done to prepare for the beef roast.

Denise has spoken to Jackie Carter at the Propane Shop. The portable grill has been booked at \$ 60 per day plus the propane. They will only charge rental for Saturday and Sunday even though we can pick up the unit on Friday & return it on Monday.

10. PROMOTION: A poster needs to be developed and put up around the valley advertising the Cultural Days. This should probably be done no later than mid June.

The list of farm families is about 95% complete. Al presented a draft of a letter that will be sent out to living residents of the farm and a separate letter will go out to as many family descendants as can be identified. This is viewed as one of the primary sources of participants at the Cultural Days Celebration. It was suggested that past residents of the town of Lebret should get an invite as none of the Metis Nation Locals have replied to the letters sent to them. Al will get them out this week.

Rather than having a sign put up on the building it has been decided to post laminated lists in the hall requesting others to come forward or to advise corrections that may be required.

NEXT MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR 1 P.M. JUNE 12, 19, and 26. They will be held at the farm if the road is passable