



The Millet School Bell Kiosk near the museum houses the school bell used in the old Millet School located on the east side of the railway tracks. The bell was erected ca. 1921 and was used until 1930 when a new school was built on the west side of Millet.



Jean Scott leads a school tour at Millet Museum (2007).

The Millet and District Historical Society seems to have been blessed by the positive role models among their volunteer corps. Not only did people like Jean Scott, Helen Moonen, Jerry Scott, Margaret Mullen, Jo Moonen, and Bert Loader commit long hours over many years to the Society, but they have been willing to mentor newer members coming into the organization. Perhaps because there were already ties of family and friendship between them, the atmosphere of their meetings, work bees, and social/fundraising events were friendly and enjoyable. General comments around the table during the interview of the current Society's board praised the social aspects of belonging to the Historical Society and the culinary treats offered at every Society function.

In spite of the enjoyable aspects of their meetings, or perhaps because of them, the Society members have accomplished a great deal. In the first few years of the operation of the exhibit room they would host three or four temporary travelling exhibitions a year. When their permanent exhibitions were installed, they continued to have special feature exhibits annually which continued to bring in members of the public and school groups. They were able to do so much, according to Jean Scott, because they had a very clear vision of what the exhibit room could be. They were inspired by that vision, and worked to transform the vision into action. At the same time, they were learning on the job, and they took the time to take available courses from the Alberta

There is no magic formula for the recruitment and retention of such ideal volunteers, as Bill Kemp ruefully stated in the board interview. There are, however, some indicators as to where to look. People who have become involved with the Millet and District Historical Society all share an interest in discovering, preserving and educating others about the history of the town and surrounding areas. Some have that interest because it is their own history; their families settled and farmed the area for years. Others care because they have made Millet their home in more recent years and they want the best for their new community and to become a part of it. For those people, the Historical Society offered an opportunity to make new friends and to learn about their new community.

Next, the volunteer must have time to give to the work of the Society. All the interest in the world will not keep someone involved if they can never attend the meetings, participate in the work parties and share the learning in the workshops. Jean Scott noted that the participation of her spouse after his retirement meant that the work at the museum was an activity that they could share, and Linda Webber and Pat Thorkman find that their friendship is strengthened because they can share time together working for the museum. Although the board does have some formal mechanism for recruiting volunteers, such as an information table at their openings and at other community events, they have found that it is the personal conversation at social events about their involvement at the Museum which