

KOMOKA RAILWAY MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER



**Komoka Railway
Museum**

**133 Queen Street
Komoka, Ontario
519-657-1912**

www.komokarailmuseum.ca

**Monthly meetings are held at the museum
on the third Thursday of each month at
7:30 p.m.**

The next meeting will be on

Thursday, January 17th, 2013.

DONATIONS

We like to acknowledge in our newsletters, any donations received to the museum so that the members can be aware of these items. From the estates of the late Ross Smith and Peter Maslak there were numerous items donated, filling several boxes and too numerous to list here. We appreciate the interest of their families in donating these items.

We are always on the lookout for items that are railroad oriented and will enhance our collection, particularly those items relating to the local area.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Firstly, I want to thank all museum members for their support over the past year.

Secondly, an item that has been discussed in the past month or two is that our Shay Locomotive, as you all know was built in 1913. So with this year being 2013, our Shay has reached its 100th year.

A celebration for our Shay's 100th birthday party should be planned, (You know any reason for a party) possibly on July 1 /13. This date could be worked into the same time that the Township has its July 1st celebrations at Komoka.

That's it for now and have a good year.

Al Ward -- President.



I will turn one hundred years old on June 9 2013. I deserve a special birthday party. Help me celebrate!



See page 4 for a special poem I wrote for the Shay by the late Walter Ellis in 1989.

Each month look for an extra page on the Shay.

NOTE FROM THE MOTIVE POWER DEPOT

OUR RESIDENT LOCO NO.4 was in for it's winter TLC, when one thing led to another with the valve gear on both sides having to be re-bushed. Grooves were also noted in the tires of the coupled wheels. Hopefully, they will last another season and tires will be fitted next winter.

THE SARNIA LOCO, THE "K. D. FORTNER" is getting a major overhaul with new and larger water tanks and re-alignment of the blast pipe and chimney. Also needed is some re-work of the plumbing. Grooves have also been noted in the driving wheels, although not as bad as those in no. 4. Next winter, it will be necessary to remove the pistons and overhaul the cylinders.

FROM THE TRACK GANG

Plans are afoot to move the traverse from the east side to the west side of the track to make room for the 1 ½" scale ground level track.

EVENTS***2013 Paris Junction Model Train Show***

Sunday, January 20, 2013 at the Paris Fairgrounds, Silver Street, Paris ON from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Cost of admission is \$4.00 per person.

Model R.R. Flea Market presented by Rail-Ops club

Sunday, January 27, 2013 at the Marritt Hall, Ancaster Fairgrounds, 630 Trinity Road, Ancaster ON from 10:00a.m. to 3:30p.m. Cost of admission is \$5.00 per person.

Burlington Model Railroad Club

Saturday, February 2, 2013 at St. John's Anglican Church Hall, 2464 Dundas Street, Burlington ON from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost of admission is \$5.00 per person.

Dundas Modular Railway Club Flea Market

Saturday, February 9, 2013 at Royal Canadian Legion 280 King Street West, 2nd floor, Dundas ON from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost of admission is \$3.00 per person.

Niagara Model Railway Show

Sunday, March 3, 2013 at CAW Hall, 124 Bunting Road, St. Catharines ON from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost of admission is \$5.00 per person.

Submissions due by January 29, 2012 for next newsletter

Dan Oatman 5 Velma Street, Strathroy ON, N7G 3L2, 519-245-4947

danoatman@gmail.com

We can now send the newsletter via email instead of via Canada Post. Let me know if you want to be added to the email list.

A SHORT HISTORY OF OUR SHAY LOCOMOTIVE

According to the website <http://www.shaylocomotives.com> our locomotive was built June 9, 2013 as number 2679 and had the following owners:

Dennis Canadian Lumber Co. #1, Whitney, ON 1913-1923

Hope Lumber Co. Ltd. #1, Ruel, ON 1923-1930

Pakesley Lumber Co. Ltd., Key Valley Railway #1, Pakesley, ON 1930-1935

Standard Chemical Co. Ltd. #1, Fassett, PQ 1935-1952

Beaver Charcoal Co., South River, ON 1952-

Ray Industries, South River, ON

Ontario Science Centre, Longstaff, ON 1966-

Komoka Railway Museum, Komoka, ON 1986-

OTHER FACTS

Our Shay is built for a standard gauge which is not usually the norm for the Shays as many of them were built for narrow gauge. It is a class "B" Shay which indicates that the locomotive has two trucks. It could carry a fuel capacity of 3.25 tons and a water capacity of 1750 gallons. She was no slim lady weighing in empty at 82,800 pounds. Top speed would be in the 12 to 15 miles per hour range.

In the life of the engine, it has been through a fire and rolled over twice. The Shay engines were often derailed as a result of the rough, temporary tracks and were easy to rerail using a 3 or 4 inch log. They were reported to be able to be repaired easily without using a hoist or pit.

Below is how the Shay looked in 1976.



OH SHAY - by Walt Ellis
November, 1989

Let's pick a name out of history,
In the good old U S A,
The year is 1870,
The man is Ephraim Shay.

As a buyer of timber, and seller of logs,
He went to work with a will,
There was only one problem, he received little cash,
'Till he landed his logs at the mill.

Came a winter with very poor sleighing,
In fact, no sleighing at all.
Five million board feet of logs in the woods,
And no way at hand to deliver the goods.

So he took himself out to his workshop,
To his forge, and his lathe, and his drill,
And he started to build him a loco-,
To get his logs over the hill.

He laboured himself into a frenzy,
Working far into the night,
Not only must he build in a hurry,
It also, must be done right.

It turned out to be a huge success,
He could haul logs near straight up a wall,
So they wined him and dined him, and gave him a watch,
At the very next Lumberman's Ball.

Then he sold out his patent for a paltry 10 grand,
To the Lima Machine Works, he gave a free hand.
He said: "Here's my blessing, I'll not stand in your way,
I hope you produce one new SHAY every day."

Well produce them they did for 69 years,
They once held a place of renown,
'Till at last they fell victim of modern times,
And their numbers kept dwindling down.

The year was 1989, early in the month of September,
Came a time that the Komoka R.R. Museum,
Will always have cause to remember.
It was on this never to be forgotten day, -
They received as a gift, a real, genuine, SHAY.

Now if the Good Lord will spare us,
We will soon find a way,
To repair and restore our own wonderful SHAY.
So don't be surprised when you come by our way,
To see a very large sign that reads:

C A U T I O N

A D U L T S A T P L A Y

Walter Ellis