



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.**

Next Meeting

***Thursday,
March 15, 2012
at 7:30 p.m.***

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Ron Davis and Dan Oatman will be speaking at the Strathroy District Historical Society meeting on Monday March 19, 2012 7:00 p.m. on the Komoka Railway Museum.

From the Desk of the Editor

I recently had opportunity to meet with one of members and see his model railroad layout and get to know him a little better. His story follows as recognition of his serving in World War II on H.M.C.S. Huron. This is the story of Ross Smith, our oldest attendee at our meetings.

Like all of us, Ross had a beginning. He was born and raised in Strathroy with 7 siblings. He has lived in Strathroy all his life except for his time away while serving on H.M.C.S. Huron. Enlistment occurred on May 20, 1942 in London at H.M.C.S. Prevost and he was off to see the world, starting with basic training in P.E.I. Then, he journeyed on to Halifax for additional training. Along with 269 other members of the crew, they sailed on a troop ship to Liverpool. On to Scotland via train, where gunnery skills were learned, followed by a weeklong gunnery course in England.

The Huron was commissioned on July 19, 1943 and assigned to the home fleet at Scapa Flow. H.M.C.S. Huron was assigned duties to the Murmansk Run later in 1943. Prior to D-Day, the ship patrolled the English Channel encountering the German navy at one point, suffering one fatal casualty. The Huron had duties on D-Day and Ross was an eye witness to the invasion. From August to November 1944, the Huron returned to Halifax for refit.

After refit, the ship sailed to the Azores and then resumed patrol duties in the English Channel followed by a run to Murmansk and then to Norway in May 1945. With the war ended, along with sister ships Haida and Iroquois, returned to Halifax. While in Halifax, he dated Doris Wright, later to be his wife. Then Ross returned to London where he was discharged October 2, 1945.

Prior to the war and after the war, Ross worked at Middlesex Furniture in Strathroy until his retirement in 1982. Doris and Ross celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2007.

We thank Ross for his service during World War II. To all of our surviving veterans of air, land and navy, you have our gratitude. To those who did not return and to those veterans who have faded away---we remember!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Museum had another successful Christmas Lottery Draw. Sales for the 2011 Christmas Lottery were started in the middle of September, two weeks earlier than other years. With good weather right up to the time of the draw, all 1500 tickets were sold.

With all the tickets sold and all expenses paid that occurred in running the draw, the Museum made a profit of \$ 1968.00

The Draw was made at the Museum on December 10th at 12:00 p.m. and winners were from the following towns. (Milton, Ont.)(Strathroy, Ont.)(Wardsville, Ont.)(2 from Komoka, Ont.)

I would like to thank all the members that helped with the sale of the tickets.

Al Ward -- President.

FROM THE LINESIDE

NEW RIDING CARS AND FRAMES

With the intention to build new riding cars, there is a need for "Bed Frame" angle iron which measures 1 ¾ "X 1 ¾ "X 1/8". If anyone is replacing an old bed, please save the angle iron.

A new pattern for the side frames on the riding cars trucks is almost complete. It looks like we may have to have the castings done in Michigan as attempts to find a willing foundry locally have been unsuccessful.

STEAM UP SCHEDULE

The tentative steam schedule for 2012 is subject to locomotive availability and weather permitting as follows:

Sunday	June 3 rd	Sunday	July 29 th
Saturday	June 16 th	Monday	August 6 th
Saturday	June 23 rd	Saturday	August 18 th
Saturday	July 14 th	Monday	September 3 rd

In addition, it is intended to run one day on the May long weekend and other days are to be determined.

Submissions due by April 1, 2012 for next newsletter