

## KOMOKA RAILWAY MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER



**Komoka Railway  
Museum**

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

[www.komokarailmuseum.ca](http://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,  
April 19, 2012  
at 7:30 p.m.***

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

On Monday, June 18, 2012 at p.m.  
at 7 p.m., the Strathroy District  
Historical Society will be visiting  
the Komoka RR Museum for a  
special tour.

**Reminder:** Memberships are due  
May 1, 2012. See enclosed form.

### From the Desk of the Editor

This is a personal story of our family's connection to railroad history. This first part is the story of my grandfather (my mom's dad), Daniel Henry Wood, who worked for the CPR from 1909 to 1943 as a fireman and then as an engineer. He emigrated in 1909 from London, England and settled in London, Ontario. Among the parts of Ontario he worked at were in Goderich, out of Toronto west and drove the special from Port Burwell, where the coal ferry Ashtabula was unloaded by connecting to the coal cars in the ferry and hauling them away to service the CPR steam locomotives.



The picture below is dated 1910 of my grandfather (left) and the engineer, C. Lord (right) sitting on the cowcatcher of CPR 894. In 2009, we discovered CPR 894 sitting at the museum in Kitchener and arranged to have family pictures taken with the engine. After 100 years, it was hard to imagine that this was the engine that my grandfather had sat on and that it had survived.



In a future newsletter, the second part of the story will be shared of our family connections to the Key Valley Railway, where our Shay engine served.

**FROM THE LINESIDE****STEAM UP SCHEDULE**

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

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

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

**DATELINE: TRACKSIDE**

As of Friday, March 16, 2012, the season unofficially opened with Electric #3 making about 20 trips before a weak main breaker popped. This will be replaced ASAP. The track survived the winter in excellent condition.

**NOTES FROM ED SPENCER****TOURISM MIDDLESEX**

This scribe attended a conference and workshop hosted by *Tourism Middlesex* on February 29, 2012 in Dorchester.

There were some familiar faces from last year's "Doors Open" and some new participants, with the main theme being the War of 1812, of course.

There were a lot of speakers, with there being so many that the first day overran by an hour. Most of the speakers had something of interest to say but there were a couple of windbags that we could have done without.

Of particular interest, was the last few minutes of the day with Brian Chalmers of the Business Development Corporation. He stated that there were grants available to non-profit organizations and a 50% grant for hiring a university media student to e-publicize our facility. Next morning, a call was made and an appointment was arranged with Brian Chalmers.

I took along the photo album of the track. A formal request was made for a \$10,000 grant to double the length of the track and possibly install an anti-tip rail. Brian was very impressed with the photos and held pout encouragement. However, as a \$10,000 grant was outside his purview to grant and as the Business Development Corporation's financial year begins April 1<sup>st</sup>, Brian would speak with his Supervisor and requested a loan of the photo album, with a promise to call back ASAP.

As for the media student, perhaps a \$500.00 grant and \$500.00 from museum funds might be sufficient to show an e-publicised return.

***Submissions due by May 1, 2012 for next newsletter***