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July 2017

KOMOKA RAILWAY MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER



The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency
Of the Government of Ontario



In June 2016,
the Komoka Railway
Museum was inducted into
the North American Railway
Hall of Fame

The Museum acknowledges a grant
provided by the Municipality of
Middlesex Centre



Komoka: Museum mascot

Komoka Railway Museum
131 Queen Street
Komoka, Ontario
519-657-1912
www.komokarailmuseum.ca



The next regularly monthly meeting is scheduled

For Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 7:30 pm

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

HAPPY CANADA DAY



150 YEARS AS A COUNTRY

Railroads have been in Canada's history since before Confederation, starting in July 25, 1836 with the Champlain & St. Lawrence Railway. As part of the 150th, there are some displays and information on highlights of rail history in Canada. I will share some of these stories in our newsletters over the summer and fall. This issue contains the story of the first railroad in Canada.

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CANADA'S FIRST RAILWAY THE CHAMPLAIN & St. LAWRENCE RAILWAY

Surveying and construction started in 1835 with grading, fencing, and bridge work. Wharves and stations at La Prairie and St. Jean sur Richelieu were constructed.

The first locomotive in Canada arrived from England in 1836 and was named "The Dorchester" with the addition of 4 passenger cars and freight cars.

The first rails were 6" pine logs, squared off, and joined by splice plates and bolts. The pine logs were replaced by iron rails in the 1850's.

The ride took two hours as there were too many passengers and The Dorchester could not pull the load. Two coaches with the dignitaries went on and the rest were pulled by horses.

Two hours later all arrived and the ceremonies were completed.

July 25, 1836 regular operations started. The line was later acquired by the Grand Trunk Railway and later became part of the Canadian National Railway and is still in operation.

There is a replica of The Dorchester in the Canadian Rail Museum, in St-Constant / Delson, Quebec.

A THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Thanks to the volunteers who were able to come out and help with the visitors during the recent Komoka Fest. There were about 60 visitors to the museum.

Thanks to the volunteers who came out with the visit of the CRHA group.

A special thanks to Ed & Rob for volunteering to cover most of the Thursdays and Fridays during July and August as we were not able to get funding for the students for the summer. See the schedules above in the newsletter for the dates the museum will be open. In September, the museum will return to the regular Saturday hours of 9 am to noon.

There are a number of regular volunteers at the museum and we acknowledge all their work to keep the museum moving ahead. Consider volunteering.



FROM TRACKSIDE

It was exciting to learn that a killdeer had decided that right under the elevated track would be a good place to create a nest and home for her brood. We have been watching the events develop over the last couple of weeks and share the pictures with you for you to enjoy.



Momma proudly showing her four eggs



Parents not impressed with the photographer



Two of the recently hatched



Papa still not impressed with the picture taking



Young one number three



Number four well hidden. It took awhile to find it.

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Dates and times the museum is open July 2017

Dates and times the museum is open August 2017

Group tours by appointment can be arranged by contacting the museum.

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GREAT NEWS

ONLY \$1000.00 LEFT TO BE PAID BACK FOR THE ROOF REPAIRS
IF YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED, WE THANK YOU
THERE IS STILL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR DONATION

**YOUR DONATION VIA CHEQUE CAN BE FORWARDED
TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS**

**Komoka Railway Museum
131 Queen Street
Komoka ON N0L 1R0
OR**

**If paying via credit card is preferable, please pay online at the following address:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/komoka-railway-museum/>**

**Any funds received beyond those needed for the roof repairs,
will be used towards the interior upgrades.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2017-2018

**Thank you to those who have renewed their membership.
If you haven't renewed yours, please send your renewal today.
Your membership is one way that you can support the museum**

FUTURE EVENTS

For more details check out the websites with all the shows listed by following the links below :

<http://www.collectorshows.ca/> and <http://www.railwaypages.com/>

TOY & COLLECTIBLES SHOWS

Woodstock Toy and Collectible Show July 9, 2017

Ancaster Collectibles Extravaganza August 20, 2017

MODEL TRAIN SHOWS

Long Sault Seaway Train Show July 15 & 16, 2017

NOSTALGIA & SMALL ANTIQUE SHOWS

None scheduled for July 2017



LIVE STEAM 2017



Live steam engines (scale size) will be running on the elevated track in our rear lot on occasion this year.

Steaming is subject to weather conditions and locomotive availability.

Birthday parties, car clubs, service club outings, etc. are welcome. For further information or to book or inquire about steaming operations, contact Ed (226) 973-4462.

KOMOKA IN THE NEWS



The buildings above were recently demolished as you can see by the machine waiting to destroy them. The small building (in the centre) had been a former blacksmith shop. The land was to be developed for housing. Delays were encountered when human remains were discovered and determined to be of historical interest. The development has resumed.

Question remains: What was the nature of the historical interest? As of print time, there appeared to be no news update.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

The Komoka Railway Museum is a registered charity and your donations of \$20.00 or more can be receipted for income tax purposes. Any donation of any amount is always welcome and very much appreciated.

Your donation can be mailed to the following address:

**Komoka Railway Museum
131 Queen Street
Komoka ON N0L 1R0**

DONATIONS VIA CREDIT CARD

If you would prefer to make a donation via credit card, please pay online at the following address:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/komoka-railway-museum/>

Submissions due by July 23, 2017 for July 2017 newsletter

Dan Oatman 5 Velma Street, Strathroy ON, N7G 3L2, 226-973-5202 danoatman@gmail.com

The newsletter is available via email instead of via Canada Post. Let me know if you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail.

Like our Facebook page, Komoka Railway Museum