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May 2018

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

We thank all our members for attending our monthly meetings.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 7:30 pm

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

SUMMER STUDENT

The museum has been approved for one student, assistant curator for the 2018 season. Ed Spencer is coordinating the hiring process. This will enable the museum to have extended summer hours again for the 2018 summer season.

REPLACEMENT OF STATION DECK

We could use more volunteers in the spring to get the task done faster.

Do you have connections to a community group or organization that would like to help?

Please contact Rob Hockin.

COMPLETION OF LIBRARY ROOM IN BAGGAGE CAR

Volunteers are needed to finish putting the library room together in the baggage car. If you can hammer, saw or paint, your talents would be welcomed.

Some materials needed as well e.g. 2 X 4's, unfinished wood panelling that can be painted, paint for walls and ceiling and trim and molding. If you are able to donate these materials or can make a cash gift towards the project, your gift would be appreciated. Please see Dan Oatman



FROM TRACKSIDE

Moving the steaming bays further south is almost complete, just need some fine tuning with level and line.

The Marshall family fired up their Juliet and she ran very well, doesn't seem too particular about which coal to burn, next time out perhaps she'll take a liking to some stoker coal that has caused problems with more finicky locomotives.

The daffodils were out in full bloom, the trees seem to have survived the winter and are budding well; soon need to cut the grass.

Ed Spencer

EDITORS NOTE: It was observed that there was a campaign involving the operation of the lawn mower to "murder" the dandelion population. We wish the grounds crew well in winning the battle with the bright yellow flowers.

Have had no feedback to the request below? Does anyone have any information?

These pictures below are from a request to our Facebook page. The person would like some help in identifying this item which he believes to be an old railroad call box.

Please contact Dan Oatman.



CPR QUEBEC STREET (LONDON EAST) STATION

Thanks to Don McQueen for sending us some maps that showed where the Quebec Street was located. The individual doing the research was appreciative for the information.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right?

Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station!

Sound a bit funny?

Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station?

The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was.

Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town.

It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-way had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and it was the primary way they communicated with the railroad.

They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station.

And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches.

As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them.

So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches.

The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them.

So Richard did.

He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

That started it all.

He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers.

It worked!

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It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches.

Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah.

And the rest is history as they say.

The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods.

Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station.

It all started with a telegraph operator:

Richard Sears and partner Alvah Roebuck!

Bet You Didn't Know That!

OK, maybe you did; I didn't!

Now that's History.

Thanks to Rob Hockin for sharing this article.

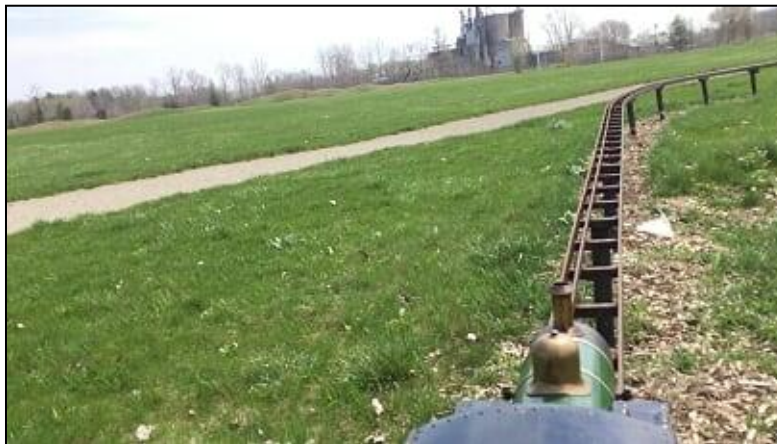
SOME LINKS THAT MIGHT BE OF IN, INTEREST TO YOU.	
Niagara Railway Museum	http://www.nfrm.ca/
Palmerston Railway museum	http://www.palmerstonrailwaymuseum.com/
Toronto Railway Museum	http://www.trha.ca/news.html
St. Jacobs & Aberfoyle Model Railway	http://www.stjacobsmodelrailway.com/
Heimbürger House Publishing (Railroad Books)	www.heimburgerhouse.com
Charlie Smiley Videos	www.cspmovies.com
North American Railway Hall of Fame	http://casostation.ca/
Canadian railway stations and structures	http://www.canada-rail.com/ontario

HERE ARE SOME PICTURES OF THE NEWEST ENGINE, THE JULIET, TO HIT THE ELEVATED TRACK.

Thanks to Justin Marshall for sharing these pictures and videos.

See the link below to see more pictures and videos of the big day.

https://1drv.ms/a/s!AiXq_l236gNUgYdTcaelfcmivhDzYA



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Donations for the ongoing maintenance

and expansion of our collections are always welcome

YOUR DONATION VIA 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/>

The Komoka Museum is a registered charity and your donation of \$20.00 or more
can be receipted for income tax purposes.

Submissions due by MAY 31, 2017 for May 2018 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

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

Ancaster Collectibles Extravaganza	June 3, 2018
Woodstock Toy and Collectibles Expo	June 10, 2018
Woodstock Toy and Collectibles Expo	July 3, 2018

NOSTALGIA & SMALL ANTIQUE SHOWS

Woodstock Nostalgia Show and Sale	May 27, 2018
Ancaster Nostalgia Show and Sale	June 24, 2018

MODEL TRAIN SHOWS

Muskoka Train Show	June 16 & 17, 2018
St. Thomas Railway Nostalgia Day and Train Hobby Show	June 24, 2018
Long Sault Seaway	July 21 & 22, 2018