

# KOMOKA RAILWAY MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019



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



**Komoka: Museum mascot**

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

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

**Komoka Railway Museum**  
131 Queen Street  
Komoka, Ontario  
519-657-1912  
[www.komokarailmuseum.ca](http://www.komokarailmuseum.ca)  
*Like us on our Facebook Page*

***We thank all our members for attending our monthly meetings.***

***Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 2pm***

### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS CHANGE OF TIME AND DAY

Please note that effective with the March 2019 meeting, our monthly meetings are now scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 2p.m. See you there. Thanks to those who took a moment to respond on whether this change would work or not. All the comments that I received were in favour of the switch of the meeting to an afternoon.

#### VOLUNTEERS VERSUS FOR HIRE WORKERS

The museum has many small projects and a few larger ones that are in process or need to be started and completed in 2019. To have more monies to spend on projects, the museum is in need of volunteers to get these projects done. Our members do what they can within their time constraints but we need more volunteer hours to complete the projects. One alternative is to hire contactors but that lessens the amount for our projects. A volunteer does not even to have an interest in trains (but it would be great if you did) as there are tasks that need some sawing and nailing. Others need painting. Some stronger younger people to move items in boxes etc to new locations. You do not have to give tours to help out. Spread the word. Great for the 40 hours for students.

## POSTCARDS

Al Ward is looking for an ongoing project. He has been assembling books of post cards of all kinds from railroad to scenic to post cards as greeting cards of the past. If you have some postcards you are not quite sure what to do with, consider donating to the museum for Al to put in binders. The theme of the cards doesn't need to be rail oriented.

## EXCITING NEW PROJECT IN THE WORKS

In partnership with one of our members, there soon will be a new addition to the museum. The project involves a wooden caboose coming to the museum with a special display. Details will follow later.



Possible fund raiser with tractor seats for sale with Komoka Railway Museum imprinted.  
Your comments would be welcome. Samples coming in March 2019.

## FUND RAISING DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN March 2019

**A SEPARATE MAILING WILL COME WITH MORE DETAILS**

**At the last members meeting in November 2018, a number of projects were reviewed for needing to be done including but not limited to the following.**

**Complete the inside of the baggage car**

**Paint the caboose**

**Fix the entranceway to the large building so it is safer for people to cross over and drive the hi-railer over**

**Work on the deck Plus several other items**

## HERITAGE FAIR

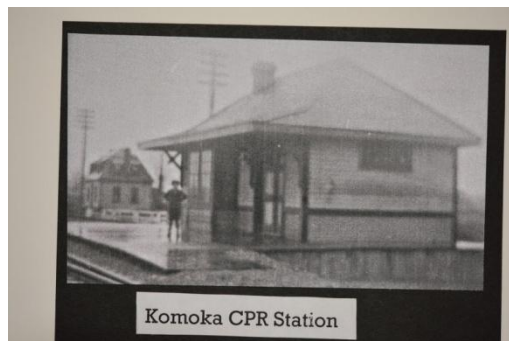
The Museum participated in the Middlesex Centre Heritage Fair on Saturday, February 23, 2019. Thanks to Ron Davis and Dan Oatman for managing the tables. It was a very successful day with lots of visitors stopping by. Also, a great chance to meet representatives all of the many diverse groups of history minded groups. To see such a diversity of people passionate about their area of special interest is encouraging to see that our history is being preserved. Thanks to Bev Shipley for taking a few minutes to stop by.



The Middlesex Centre Archives has the picture below as the Komoka CPR Station.

This doesn't match the picture of the CPR station that the museum has.

Any thoughts on what station it might be.



## US ORPHAN TRAINS

The president recently acquired these two collector plates of the Orphan Trains. This is not about the merits or issues with the Orphan Trains but to present rail history. The British Home Children in Canada were not distributed this way. That is another story for next month's newsletter.



Here are a couple of links for further information on the Orphan trains.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan\\_Train](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_Train)

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/>

For those without internet access, here is a brief history of the Orphan Trains

### A HISTORY OF THE ORPHAN TRAINS

by Connie DiPasquale

#### WHO WERE THESE ORPHAN TRAIN RIDERS?

Orphans ... Foundlings ... Waifs ... Half-Orphans ... Street Arabs ... Street Urchins ... all terms used to describe the children who rode the Orphan Trains. When the Orphan Train movement began, in the mid-19th century, it was estimated that approximately 30,000 abandoned children were living on the streets of New York. And over the 75 year span of the Orphan Train movement, it is estimated that between 150,000 and 200,000 "orphan" children were relocated to new homes via the Orphan Trains. But the term "orphan" is used loosely in many cases. Some children were true orphans, no parents, no other family to look after them, living on the streets, sleeping in doorways, fending for themselves by whatever means necessary.

But many of these children had parents. Some were "half-orphans", one parent had died and the remaining parent could not care for them, so they were placed in an orphanage. Some children still had both parents, but were merely "turned loose" by the parents because the family had grown too large and they couldn't care for all the children. Some were run-aways - from abuse, drunkenness, etc.

The factors that "created" these children are many. Some of them are:

- parental death, due to disease, industrial accidents, starvation, etc.
- neglect, abandonment, prostitution.
- massive overpopulation in the New York area due to extensive immigration in the mid 19th century.
- a general attitude among the "higher society" that those in the "lower classes" didn't deserve help, that they "were poor because they chose not to help themselves, therefore they got what they deserved".

### **WHO STARTED THE ORPHAN TRAINS?**

Basically, there were two main institutions responsible for this mass "emigration" of children from New York. Those institutions are The Children's Aid Society, and The New York Foundling Hospital. Both are still active today (in 1996) helping children. The first "train" went out from The Children's Aid Society on September 20, 1854, with 46 ten-to-twelve-year-old boys and girls. Their destination was Dowagiac, Michigan. All 46 children were successfully placed in new homes. While this "placement" effort of orphans was not entirely original to these two institutions, there had been similar efforts tried in Boston as early as the mid 1840s, they are the institutions that most often come to mind when discussing the Orphan Train movement.

Article Source from A History of The Orphan Trains by Connie DiPasquale on the website [http://www.kancoll.org/articles/orphans/or\\_hist.htm](http://www.kancoll.org/articles/orphans/or_hist.htm)

<b>SOME LINKS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO YOU</b>	
Niagara Railway Museum	<a href="http://www.nfrm.ca/">http://www.nfrm.ca/</a>
Palmerston Railway museum	<a href="http://www.palmerstonrailwaymuseum.com/">http://www.palmerstonrailwaymuseum.com/</a>
Toronto Railway Museum	<a href="http://www.trha.ca/news.html">http://www.trha.ca/news.html</a>
St. Jacobs & Aberfoyle Model Railway	<a href="http://www.stjacobsmodelrailway.com/">http://www.stjacobsmodelrailway.com/</a>
Elgin County Railway Museum	<a href="https://ecrm5700.org/">https://ecrm5700.org/</a>
Heimbürger House Publishing (Railroad Books)	<a href="http://www.heimburgerhouse.com">www.heimburgerhouse.com</a>
Charlie Smiley Videos	<a href="http://www.cspmovies.com">www.cspmovies.com</a>
North American Railway Hall of Fame	<a href="http://casostation.ca/">http://casostation.ca/</a>
Canadian railway stations and structures	<a href="http://www.canada-rail.com/ontario">http://www.canada-rail.com/ontario</a>

**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 March 25, 2019 for April 2019 newsletter***

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

***The museum newsletters are also posted to the Komoka Museum's Facebook page.***

## **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 Collectibles Expo	March 24, 2019
Kitchener Collectibles Expo	April 14, 2019
London Collectibles Expo	April 19, 2019
Woodstock Toy and Collectibles Expo	April 28, 2019
Ancaster Collectorfest	May 5, 2019

### **NOSTALGIA & SMALL ANTIQUE SHOWS**

Woodstock Nostalgia Show and Sale	March 10, 2019
Ancaster Nostalgia Show and Sale	April 7, 2019
Kitchener Collectibles Expo	April 14, 2019
Woodstock Nostalgia Show and Sale	May 26, 2019

### **MODEL TRAIN SHOWS**

Kingston 30th Rail O Rama Model Train Show	March 9 & 10, 2019
Railview Historical Society and Model Railway	March 9 & 10, 2019
York Railway Modellers Club Show	March 10, 2019
Toronto Railway Prototypes Modellers Meet	March 16, 2019
York Railway Modellers Club Show	March 17, 2019
Kitchener Model Train Show and Sale	March 17, 2019
Double Headers 36 <sup>th</sup> Annual Self-Guided Layout Tour	March 23, 2019
Woodstock Model Train Show and Sale	March 31, 2019
Annual Brantford, Simcoe & Port Dover Model Layout Tour	April 6, 2019
Lindsay L&DMR's 45 <sup>th</sup> Annual Train Show	April 6 & 7, 2019
Belleville Model Railroaders Open House	April 6, 2019
Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers Open House	April 7, 2019
Oshawa Pine Ridge Railroaders Open House	April 13, 2019
Mississauga Model Railroad Flea Market	April 14, 2019
Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers Open House	April 14, 2019
Schomberg Annual Ontario Narrow Gauge Show	April 27, 2019
Annual Nottawasaga Model Railway	May 4, 2019
Midland Annual Train Show and Sale	May 25 & 26, 2019
Montreal Model Train Exposition	May 25 & 26, 2019
Ancaster Collectorfest	May 5, 2019