

# KOMOKA RAILWAY MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020



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*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*Our monthly meetings will be online via Zoom, not at the museum, until further notice*

**Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 2 PM**

### **PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS**

Meeting restrictions prohibit groups larger than 5 individuals coming together and we want to keep everyone safe. For the interim, the museum meetings will be via Zoom. If you are on Zoom and would like to be part of the meeting, please let me know and you will be sent the link etc. to join in. If you are not on Zoom and would like to participate via your computer, get in touch and someone will walk you through getting setup on your computer. The next regular meeting will be on June 16, 2020 via Zoom.

**NOTE below the change of the date of the annual meeting.**

### **ANNUAL MEETING CHANGE OF DATE**

**Notice is given that the annual meeting of the Komoka Railway Museum will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2020 at 2 pm at the museum.** Recent changes made by the Ontario Government, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, allow delay of annual meetings to a time when groups can meet in person.



***BREAKING NEWS***

***Our two summer employees have been hired.***

***We welcome first, Katelyn Graham, whose background includes experience with Beachville District Museum, Banting Archives and St. Mary's Museum and Archives. She has been involved in many areas including event planning, fund raising, leading tours, digitizing records among other skills. We look forward to Katelyn joining us on June 26, 2020. Her formal education was at the University of Guelph.***

***Our other employee is Beverley Field, from Komoka, attending Medway High School and had attended Parkview Public School. Beverley brings skills in handling cash, research, information gathering, customer service and French among other things. We welcome Beverley, who will also join us on June 26, 2020 as well. Her interests include horseback riding, softball, rugby and math contests.***

***Welcome aboard to both Katelyn and Beverley.***

**2020 KOMOKA MUSEUM OPENING DATE**

**The museum is closed until further notice. Middlesex Centre is now in Phase 1. The museum is part of Phase 3. No time frame in place yet.**

**HI-RAILER**

**The Hi-Railer is need of the steering box to be rebuilt. Times are difficult but if you can donate towards the repair of about \$500.00, the museum would appreciate your donation to keep the Hi-Railer in good working order.**

**INTERAC PAYMENTS**

**The museum can now accept direct interact payments for your donations, supporting our fund raising and membership payments. Please send to the following address: [station-master@komokarailmuseum.ca](mailto:station-master@komokarailmuseum.ca), This is a direct deposit to the museum's account, so no question or answer is required.**

**RON DAVIS**



We were saddened by the recent passing of Ron Davis, long time curator and local historian. Our condolences go out to his wife, June & family. The directors are discussing a permanent memorial. Details will follow later.

For the August newsletter, we would like to put together your “railroad” stories about Ron that you would like to share for a memorial tribute. Please forward your stories to the editor by July 25, 2020 to be included.

If you would like to send a card to June Davis & family. Here is the address.

June Davis & family  
22700 Komoka Road  
Komoka ON NOL 1R0



Interesting use of a locomotive as a barbeque with a couple of cars for the accessories.



## SECRETARY

Ed Spencer, our present secretary, has indicated that as of the annual meeting in 2020, he would like to retire as secretary. We are looking for a volunteer to take over for Ed and serve as secretary.

The duties are not hard. Attend the monthly meetings (The third Tuesday of each month) from March to November or special meetings as called and take the meeting minutes. Maintain the membership list and mail out membership cards. Mail cards for special occasions e.g. deaths, special birthdays or other special events of the members. Other duties as required on occasion.

The individual does not have to be involved with the museum at present but would be willing to join for this position. If you know someone who you think would make a great fit for this position, have them contact 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

Cancelled till end of July 2020

### NOSTALGIA & SMALL ANTIQUE SHOWS

Cancelled till end of July 2020

### MODEL TRAIN SHOWS

Cancelled till end of July 2020

**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

The museum can receive Interac direct deposits to [station-master@komokarailmuseum.ca](mailto:station-master@komokarailmuseum.ca)

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 accepted for income tax purposes.

*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.*



22137 CNR STATION LOCATED BETWEEN PALMERSTON & FERIOUS ONT. JUNE 1906 JIM PARKER PHOTO

**Wondering if this was similar to what was being used at Gobles prior to the 1912 Gobles, later Komoka Station being built**



**The Komoka Railway Museum will be participating with Middlesex Centre with plantings, to encourage the Monarch butterflies and pollinators, which are at risk.**

**If you would like to know more about the Middlesex Centre initiative, please visit the link below**

<http://www.pollinatorteam.com/>

OR on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/pollinatorteam/>

OR on Facebook

Middlesex Centre Pollinator Team.



## RAILWAYS AND EPIDEMICS/PANDEMICS

Below is a link to an account of a railroad and yellow fever.

The town of Callahan, Florida in 1888, threatened the Savannah, Florida and Western Railroad that they would tear up the track if trains continued to come through the town. Residents south of Callahan, stated they would take up arms and force the way open.

“The operation of the Savannah, Florida and Western line was so controversial because the summer of 1888 was not a normal one for southern railroads. With the appearance of yellow fever in Jacksonville in July, the region's railroads were potential vectors for the disease's spread. Instead of holding typical passengers, the disputed trains at Callahan carried refugees fleeing a raging epidemic of yellow fever in Jacksonville. Growing out of the possibility of infection from a horrible disease, the conflict was a matter of community survival for the localities involved. Callahan's railroad connections, acquired with the Waycross Short Line's completion in 1881, had gone from being a boon to threatening the town's very existence.”

<https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1G1-319613801/infected-rails-yellow-fever-and-southern-railroads>

### “Russian flu closes businesses

In 1889, a new virus emerged – the Russian flu. Like coronavirus, it became a worldwide pandemic in only four months.

Its spread was aided by modern transport methods like railways and transatlantic ship crossings.”

<https://www.israel21c.org/pandemics-and-plagues-in-the-holy-land/>

**WISHING EVERYONE TO STAY SAFE AND HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL SOON**