

# SASKATCHEWAN RAILWAY MUSEUM NEWS

The Saskatchewan Railroad Historical Association Newsletter

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## Chair's Report

Let me begin by thanking Fred Tatler and Terry Enns for getting the Saskatchewan Railway Museum News back on the rails (pun intended). Communication within the membership is necessary to create a strong and successful Museum.

I thought I would take this opportunity to speak about our Mission & Vision. In our bylaws we have a Mission Statement which reads as follows "The Association was founded to preserve and interpret Canadian Railway and Street Railway history, especially that of Saskatchewan". The Mission is backed up with a series of Objectives which I have listed below:

- The maintenance and operation of the Saskatchewan Railway Museum
- Promoting the preservation of Canadian Railway history, railway equipment and artifacts for public display, in particular history, equipment and artifacts from Saskatchewan Railways
- Promoting the preservation of Canadian Street Railway history, railway equipment and artifacts for public display, in particular history, equipment and artifacts from Saskatchewan Street Railways
- Collection, restoration, preservation, study, interpretation and display of railroad and street railroad artifacts and equipment
- Promoting educational and recreational tours of the Museum and its collection for the public
- Promoting collecting and writing of the history of railroads, street railroads through the collection of information on artifacts and personal recollections of railroading experience

These few paragraphs speak to what we are about. However it is still a very broad canvas. Also, what the bylaws do not address is our Vision. However, a Vision can be implied from the Mission and Objectives.

The generally accepted purpose of a Museum is to tell stories. From our bylaws it is clear that the story we want to tell is that of Saskatchewan Railways. However this is a very broad story with many volumes. I believe that the key to our success is to concentrate on a few stories, and tell them well.

I have thought long and hard about what stories we can tell, and here are a few suggestions on stories I think we are well positioned to tell:

- Train Dispatching: Dispatching is basically the art and science of keeping multiple trains running safely and efficiently on limited track work. We have several artifacts that support the telling of this story:
  - Argo Station – the agent/operator’s office was the point of contact between the dispatcher and the train crews.
  - Oban Tower – the tower was basically a manually operated traffic signal.
  - Saskatoon CTC Panel – CTC dispatching came along after timetable and train order operation. We also have the much smaller Sutherland/Saskatoon panel from the CPR.
  - Employee Timetables and Rulebooks.
  - Communication devices such as telegraphs, telephones and radios.
- Freight Transportation
  - Our extensive collection of freight cars
  - The Unity Freight House
- Grain Transportation
  - This story has not been told at other railway museums and we are in a unique position to tell the story. We have boxcars of various eras including a special grain loading boxcar. Although we do have the CPR covered hopper for more modern grain transportation, a Canadian or Saskatchewan grain car would be a suitable addition.
- Passenger Transportation
  - The Kirkella
  - Argo and Brisbin stations
  - Public timetables and other documentation
  - The street car display

As I said, these are some of my suggestions. I want to hear your suggestions as well.

Cal Sexsmith, Chair  
Saskatchewan Railroad Historical Association

## Summer Staff Hired:

Once again this year the Employment Committee was tasked with hiring two students for the 2013 season. The positions were posted on the SaskJobs website April 10, 2013, and from this we received 20 applications.

On Friday May 3, 2013, interviews were held for our two summer staff positions by the Employment committee consisting of PJ Kennedy, Fred Tatler and Terry Enns. They interviewed 7 potential candidates, and from this group of seven, four strong candidates were identified as suitable for the two positions. To give each candidate fair consideration, the committee members decided to grade the four candidates and submit their choices in order, from 1 to 4. In the end two U of S students, Josh Kurtenbach and Lindsay Sthamann were offered a position with both accepting.

Staff Orientation day was held on May 13, 2013, which coincidentally was their first day of employment. PJ Kennedy provided instruction on tour guiding and general historical artifact information. Keith Flory provided training and instruction on operation of the Museums lawn equipment and Speeders, and Cal Sexsmith went through the Staff Manual and Museum operations with the new employees.

Funding for the two staffing positions was received from federal Government agencies Service Canada and Young Canada Works (in heritage institutions). The SRHA would like to thank both agencies for their generous support.

The Employment committee would like to thank Cal Sexsmith, Keith Flory, Art Vessey, Les Gamel and Norm Dyck for ensuring that staff were provided orientation and that mowers, line trimmer speeders and other equipment were in good working order and ready for the new season.



Lindsay Sthamann and Josh Kurtenbach on the back platform of the S3 (photo by Fred Tatler)

## **Museum Open:**

The official opening of the 2013 season at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum was Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, with patrons lined up at the gate 1/2 hour before opening.

Lynda Thiesen was in attendance in the morning to provide the Gift Shop orientation to Josh and Lindsay (summer staff).

Members Fred Tatler and Cal Sexsmith arrived after lunch and with some help from Josh, un-tarped Street Car #51, and did some final clean up around the street car streetscape. Both stayed until closing to offer any other assistance that the staff might require.

Approximately 50 visitors toured the museum grounds on opening day and 129 over the course of the weekend. All in all the weather cooperated, and it was a good opening weekend.

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Parkside Parade**

Fred Tatler will represent the Museum when he and the CN handcar take part in the 2013 Parkside parade, which will take place on June 29, 2013 in the town of Parkside just South of Shellbrook on Highway #40. Fred will be pulling the handcar on a float trailer and will not be driving it from Saskatoon on the rails as was first thought.

Fred would like to thank Dave Morrison (seen taking the handcar for a spin) for the loan of his trailer specially constructed to transport handcars, speeders and work cars.



(file photo)

## Railway Heritage Day

Once again this year the Museum will host Railway Heritage Day. This year's event is moving to July 7, 2013, and is being Co-chaired by Fred Tatler and Bill Rafoss.

Funding for advertising has once again been received again from SaskTel, and PSA's have been put out advertising the event.

This year thanks to mechanically inclined members of the British Car Club and our own Bill Rafoss, we will once again have the Museums 1957 Whiting Corporation Trackmobile pulling the CN caboose offering rides to patrons.

If you recall it was just before the opening of the 2007 Railway Heritage Day that the Trackmobile transmission and bell housing blew up leaving many to wonder if it was the last time we would see it operating.

In addition to Caboose, speeder and handcar rides, patrons and members can wet their appetite with a burger, hotdog and a pop at the concession run this year by Norm Dyck and the newly formed Speeder Committee members.

Members are encouraged to sign up early to participate in the event. If you want to participate contact Bill Rafoss or Fred Tatler.

### Museum News:

Work on Oban tower continued following a long winter break. Project coordinator Keith Flory organized a work party on May 26<sup>th</sup> to mill the boards needed to replace the rotted and damaged siding on the tower.

Keith would like to thank Museum members Bill Chimboryk, Bill Rafoss, Les Gammel, Norm Dyck, Warren Clancy and Mark Fidelak who along with Linda Flory and Ev Chimboryk milled and painted the siding required to make the necessary repairs, and restore this historically significant building back to its former glory.



**Keith Flory, Les Gammel and Bill Rafoss milling boards to replicate the original.**



**Warren Clancy, Bill Chimboryk using table Saw. Something seems to have caught Bill Rafoss' attention.**



**Ev Chimboryk and Linda Flory applying primer to newly milled siding.**



**Bill Chimboryk, Norm Dyck and Bill Rafoss using table saw to cut siding to proper width**



**Mark Fidelak and Ev Chimboryk priming siding while Les Gamel supervises.**



**Bill Chimboryk and Bill Rafoss (foreground) cutting a big job down to size.**

## **Did You Know?**

Saskatchewan has 13 operational privately-owned short line railways on about 2,000 km of provincially-regulated track.

Saskatchewan has 1,180 provincially-regulated short line crossings.

(Information taken from an article published in the Shellbrook Chronicle May 3, 2013 by the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Short line Railway Association).

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Date:	Event:	Location:	Time:
June 22, 2013	<b>General Meeting, and Member open house and barbeque</b>	Museum	10:00 a.m.
July 1, 2013	Canada Day	Museum Open- Holiday	10:00 a.m.
July 6, 2013	Board Meeting	Museum	10:00 a.m.
July 7, 2013	<b>Railway Heritage Day</b>	Museum	10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
July 27, 2013	General Meeting	Museum	10:00 a.m.
August 5, 2013	Holiday	Museum Open- Holiday	10:00 a.m.
August 10, 2013	Board Meeting	Museum	10:00 a.m.
August 24, 2013	General Meeting	Museum	10:00 a.m.
September 2, 2013	Labour Day – Last day open in 2013 Season	Museum Open- Holiday	10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
September 2, 2013	Member/Staff windup Barbeque	Museum	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
September 7, 2013	Board Meeting	Museum	10:00 a.m.
September 21, 2013	General Meeting	Museum	10:00 a.m.

If you have any comments or submissions.

Please forward to the Fred Tatler [fred.susan@sasktel.net](mailto:fred.susan@sasktel.net), or Terry Enns  
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