

Station Celebration 2012

On October 19th, we hosted our second annual Station Celebration event, which has become an annual fundraising event, in support of the restoration of the Canada Southern Railway Station.

This year's event featured a Titanic Tribute performance from the script of the Titanic, by nine actors/actresses, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the sinking of this great ocean liner.

On April 10, 1912 the RMS TITANIC embarked on it's maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton, England to New York City. One of the largest and most luxurious passenger liners at the time, the Titanic was also considered by many to be unsinkable. On April 14, however, the ship struck an iceberg and early the next day it sank. Some 1500 people perished as a result.

After the 1985 discovery of its wreckage, interest in the famed liner only increased, and it's captured the public's imagination and inspired popular books and movies.

The evening commenced with cocktails, with a silent auction taking place throughout the evening. Those in attendance enjoyed an informal evening with the opportunity of sharing conversation and enjoying the Titanic Tribute performance. Music throughout the evening was provided by Jennifer White, a Celtic harpist, adding to an already delightful evening.



Above: Actors/Actresses who performed Titanic Tribute

Bottom of Page: Jenifer White - Celtic Harpist and photo of Anderson Hall decorated for the event



The Canada Southern Railway Station is a project of the North America Railway Hall of Fame

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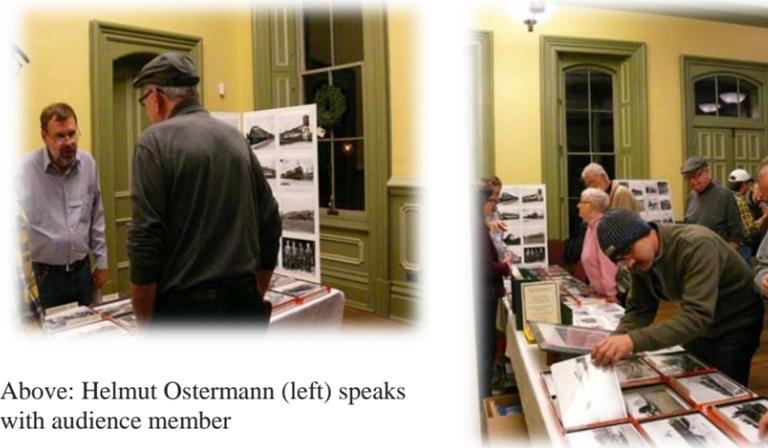
CASO Station Packed For Slide Show Presentation

On November 21, 2012, Helmut Ostermann treated a capacity crowd to over 100 years of railway images at the CASO Railway Station. The slide-show presentation, entitled "Whatever Happened to St. Thomas?" is an important documentation of a period of time that is of interest to railway enthusiasts and historians. It is also a remarkable collection from an artistic point of view, including many stunning night-time photos taken by Ostermann. This event was presented by the Elgin Railway Museum and the North America Railway Hall of Fame.

Ostermann made a trip to St. Thomas with a friend in 1975 when, he notes, he could still find lots to see and experience related to the railway. From then until 1984 he spent countless hours taking photos in the city and near-by. His presentation included many of those, plus selections from his collection of work by other photographers. Trains, buildings, bridges and equipment shots, along with Ostermann's commentary, give an impactful impression of the importance of the rail on work, activity, and interests of generations of people in the city. They also reflect the influence of a progression of companies from New York Central to Wabash, Chesapeake & Ohio, CN, CP, Amtrak, Michigan Central, London & Port Stanley, London & Lake Erie, Pere Marquette and more.

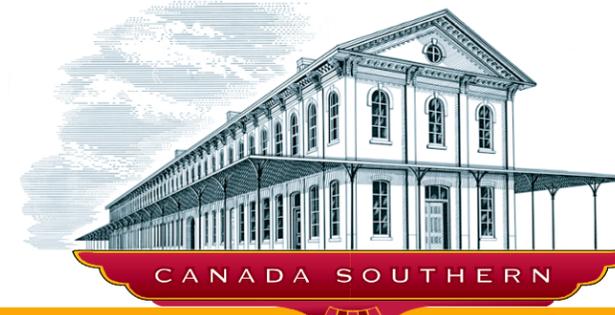
Ostermann ended his presentation by saying that he had heard that there was a group planning to purchase the MCR Railway Trestle Bridge for the creation of an elevated park. He shared several shots he had taken of the High Line Elevated ark in New York City, noting the enjoyment and recreational opportunity that has been gained with reclamation of that rail line, and with similar projects in several locations.

"Whatever Happened to St. Thomas?" It would be nice if, a few years from now, we could be sitting down to a presentation of Ostermann's photographs documenting the creation of the remarkable St. Thomas Elevated Park from a piece of our railway heritage, with the answer, "This is What Happened to St. Thomas".



Above: Helmut Ostermann (left) speaks with audience member

Right: Guests viewing Ostermann's display of photography



RAILWAY STATION
ST. THOMAS • ONTARIO • CANADA

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Station DISPATCH

2013 Events >>>

February

13th Valentine's Tea

April

13th Electronic Clean-up

21st Train Show

May

2nd Annual General Meeting

21st Victoria Tea

October

8th Heritage Tea

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Christmas Concert at CASO

Office Staff 2012

Larry Longfield, Executive Director
George Riman, Office Administrator
Laurence Grant, Historian
Linda Martin, Events and Volunteer Coordinator
Debbie Stojkovic, Accounting
Terry Marshall, Facilities Maintenance Worker

CASO Welcomes New Tenant

Sheridan and McPhee Insurance Brokers is a newly formed firm providing Personal Insurance, Commercial Insurance and Risk Management Services for its customer base in Ontario by searching the marketplace for insurance providers that demonstrate and offer outstanding value and significant savings.

Michael McPhee and Tim Sheridan share many of the same core values that have allowed for success in their individual careers and ultimately to their partnership and the creation of Sheridan and McPhee Insurance Brokers.

Michael, a native to Elgin County, and who is the Chief Executive Officer of this new firm, has worked in various executive positions for large national brokerage firms; while Tim, who is returning to the Insurance Industry, has a long and proven history of providing insurance to the residents of St. Thomas. After merging his brokerage with a London firm in 2004, he remained immensely involved in the insurance industry in both local and national capacities. Tim also finds time to volunteer, and is currently a director of the London Insurance Professional, Director on the board of the London Claims Association and Event Co-Chair of the St. Thomas Insurance Brokers Association.

When they began to search for office space in St. Thomas, Tim called Michael excited about a recent visit to the CASO Station exclaiming, "You have to see this building!" Michael recalls the building's state of disrepair while growing up and upon visiting the Station in October; he was impressed with the restoration and immediately understood Tim's excitement and knew this was the location for their firm. Sheridan and McPhee Insurance Brokers is the fourth tenant to occupy space in the Station.

"We are extremely excited to be the newest tenant of the CASO Station, and to open our new firm in the landmark railway Station which the North America Railway Hall of Fame has so passionately brought back to its previous prestige. It truly is the centre piece of St. Thomas, and we look forward to the opportunity to contribute to a community project like the Station."

The North America Railway Hall of Fame welcomes our newest tenant and wishes them the very best in this new endeavor.



January
2013

Executive Director's Report

2012 was the Year of the Dragon, and Dragon years are characterized as dramatic, full of lavish and unpredictable events. It is considered a good year for fashion, performing arts and cultural events. I can say that some of this was true in that we had a few firsts in the Canada Southern Railway Station that brought us to the forefront in our immediate community.

The first ever SouthWest Ontario Tourism Conference took place in the Station in March. This two day conference brought close to 200 delegates from the surrounding counties to teach them new skills in developing tourism strategies for their area. A majority of these delegates had never been to the Station and were amazed at the restoration. Even Ontario Tourism Minister, Michael Chan made an appearance at this conference.

Our Station also saw its first Summer Concert Series that featured a number of local musicians and Juno winners throughout the summer in Anderson Hall. Freshfest continues to be a success at the Station and with the addition of a large portion of the boardwalk, the attendees enjoyed an evening on the outside deck. This new addition continues to be a feature that will be enjoyed at future events. The St. Thomas Horticultural Society has also been hard at work preparing two major flower beds at the station. Thanks to them the greenery will be more visible come this spring.

2013 is the Year of the Snake. The Snake will seem to go in one direction, and then, very unexpectedly, it will veer in completely another direction. Those who do best this year are the ones who have a natural ability to move at the pace of the snake and who are able to navigate tricky waters.

This fall we created a budget that would give us a true plan of where we have to be each month to guide us through the year. We are also looking ahead in 2013 to continuing restoration projects, such as finishing the boardwalk on the east and west ends, finishing the fascia on both ends of the building, creating the displays in the second floor hallway for the North America Railway Hall of Fame, establishing a working website for NARHF, and creating more midweek rentals to generate extra revenue for the building fund. As well, we want to make sure that our communication lines are open to you, our members and donors.

I used the Chinese Zodiac in a fun way to compare where we were and where we want to be but it is a good motivation piece to keep us on the path to making the Canada Southern Railway Station a centre piece of St. Thomas and area.

Railway Station Mysteries and Ghost Stories

The laughter of children had been heard within the building. One day a few volunteers were working in the attic of the Station. The volunteers were interrupted when they heard the footsteps and laughter of people running down the wooden corridor. Fearing a fire may have been set by a group of children, the men quickly left the attic and searched the building. No fire or people were found and all doors leading from the building were locked.

One night, while setting up for the Windows of Christmas event, a group of volunteers was interrupted when they heard the sound of people running on the second floor. Thinking it may have been vandals or just people not supposed to be in the building, the volunteers quickly went to the second floor. On the way, they heard lots of laughter. When they reached the second floor, no one was to be found, and again, all doors were locked on the main floor so no one could leave.

Fact or Fiction.....who knows?



In Memoriam

We would like to pay tribute to, and honor the memory of one of our donors, who passed away in 2010:

Margaret Crane

THOSE WE HAVE HELD IN OUR HEARTS FOR A WHILE, WE WILL HOLD IN OUR MEMORY FOREVER

There may be those whom we may have missed, and for this we do apologize. If you are aware of anyone we have missed, please advise us, and we will be pleased to identify them in our future newsletters

CASO Station Hosts an Art Show

On November 9-11, the Canada Southern Railway Station hosted the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Guild annual Art show, this year called, "Twas the Art before Christmas". There were many local artists who not only displayed their work, but made their work available for purchase.

The event is very popular and is always well attended, and as a result, the Guild has already booked the Station for next year's event, which will take place on November 8 -10, 2013.

Job Fair Hosted At CASO Station

Mr. Gord Hall, Job Developer for Employment Services Elgin, arranged through his office to host a Job Fair, to be held at the CASO Station. (photo's on lower left)

This job fair was for candidates interested in being employed at Transcom.com, a call centre operation with six centres in Southwestern Ontario.

Janet Appleton, Human Resources Manager for Transcom.com was present and had opportunity to speak with and interview many candidates for employment with her company.

You can now find us on Face Book; North America Railway Hall of Fame (NARHF) and Canada Southern Railway Station (CASO).

In The Blink of an Eye

By Patty Hayes

*In the blink of an eye
You return
To a sweeter time
A softer memory
A long ago moment*

*I run through the breezeway
Eagerly looking first one way
Then the other
Where is he coming from Mom?
Which way will he come Mom?*

*It is cold and I step back
Into the protective insulation of the bricks
But excitement gets the better of me
And I poke my head out again
Looking this way then that
Until he comes into view*

*In that moment I rush forward to run to him
Hearing the cries of my mom to be careful
But that big grin draws me forward into his arms
He hugs me and my sister
And then there is a great big one waiting for Mom*

*My Dad is home from the rails
And all is good*

*And then I remember that I am fifty-nine
Not four
And the rails are gone as is so much else
But the memories remain
Like the station
Priceless beyond measure
A treasure preserved*

Please forward any personal/family real life stories of the railroad, or information similar to that above to: griman@narhf.org, or mail to George Riman, Office Administrator, at our office address as shown on page 4 of this newsletter.

Remembering the Past

Patty Hayes was born and raised in St. Thomas for the first 15 years of her life...her dad built the house she and her family lived in at 27 Fairview Avenue, before moving to Dutton, Ontario. Railroading is in her blood because not only was *her dad* a brakeman for the New York Central, but *her grandfather* held various positions on the Michigan Central as well as the Pere Marquette and the L & P S. *Her uncle* Art Hayes worked for the New York Central and the Chesapeake and Ohio as an engineer. *Her mother's father, Grandpa Bechtel* was a retired engineer for the New York Central and she, her grandmother and her sister road the train to Buffalo many times on the free lifetime pass that her grandmother had, due to her grandfather's years of service.

Patty recently visited the CASO Station and Elgin County Railway Museum, after which she sent the following picture along with a poem she wrote, which Indicates how special and meaningful the CASO Station is to her..."with many fond memories and much family history contained in those walls and on those rails!"



Some Important Men pictured above from left to right: Joe Smyth and Ron Erickson then left to right: Larry Doan, Brian Yallop, Bob Lister

Railway Humour Corner

A few years ago, I decided to visit my sister who was living in France. I assumed that most French would speak English. I found that many people spoke only their own language and this included the ticket inspector on the train. He punched my ticket and then chatted cordially for a bit, making several expansive gestures. I simply nodded from time to time to show him that I was interested.

When he had gone, an American tourist, also on the train, leaned forward and asked if I spoke French?

"No", I admitted.

"Then that explains", she said, "why you didn't bat an eyelid when he told you that you were on the wrong train".

Meet Some Important Men

If you have visited the Canada Southern Railway Station over the past year or two, you will have noticed the beautifully crafted wood work in the Anderson Hall and the Waiting Room areas. The double doors, shutters, and all of the other visible wood work was done by five men, Ron Erickson, Brian Yallop, Joe Smyth, Larry Doan and Bob Lister. These five men spent four years working and creating the wood work that is seen today, which is replicated back to the 1914-25 era. The intricacy of the work is amazing, when one considers, for example, that there is 190 feet of trim on the inside and outside of each double door on the main floor alone.

These men gave of themselves in using their talents and contributed many volunteer hours of their time to see that the Station was brought back to life for the many who visit to experience.

We salute these men and all the work that they have done here at the Canada Southern Railway Station!

-----Detach and Return-----
I want to be a part of history! I wish to contribute _\$1,000 _\$500 _\$100 _\$50 _\$25 _Other \$ _____
NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please make cheques payable to NORTH AMERICA RAILWAY HALL OF FAME. All donations are tax deductible. However, to reduce the administrative costs, receipts will only be issued for donations of \$25 or more unless requested by checking here. _

I give authorization to publish my name in donor news by checking here. _ Charitable Registration Number 86722 8132 RR0001