

Communication Connection

The ECRM BX Tower Maintenance Committee has submitted a proposal to establish a connection between the Canada Southern Railway Station and BX Tower for communication between these two buildings by telegraph and/or telephone.

The committee is endeavoring to re-establish the historic circuitry to that extent that started in 1872 and ended in more recent times. Telegraphy was an integral part of the railway systems at the time of the Canada Southern Railway being established here, and then railways developed their own telephone systems extensively in the early 1900's. BX Tower at the corner of Moore and Centre Streets as part of the Michigan Central Railway here from the early 1900 era had both telegraph and telephone connections in it, as did the CASO Depot (Station) and the L&PS Railway Station at Talbot Street. The railway pole line that carried telegraph and telephone wires through the city was modified around 1930 with the laying of an underground cable from the Kettle Creek railway bridge to the Depot, and the removal of the overhead wire pole lines between the Station and the bridge. That cable may be in place in most of the original path between BX and the CASO Station.

The Committee has long had the goal of re-establishing communication connectivity between BX and the CASO Station, and also has worked with the City to have a connection in the ground between BX and the L&PS Station, which piece is still subject to finalizing the end connections in the buildings. We intend to determine if, indeed, an underground circuit can be found near the west end of the CASO Station where it was known to be until recent times, and whether it can be extended into the building above grade to make the circuit come to life.

If successful, the Committee will try to get the L&PS Station and the MCR Locomotive Shop into a more comprehensive communication circuit for the main purpose of public demonstrations of the restored communication connection.

2017 Queen of Hearts CASO Crop Two Day Event

Come to the Ultimate **Paper Crafting Event!** This is a fabulous opportunity for scrap bookers, card makers, mixed media artists and paper crafters!

The event will run Saturday, February 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at a cost of \$45 and Sunday, February 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at a cost of \$30 OR both days for \$70. **Also, you will receive a \$20 charitable tax receipt** for each day booked.

(Continued on the column on the right)



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

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11th Annual Light up the Windows of Christmas

Now that the summer is coming to a close, thoughts turn to the fall and winter seasons which quickly lead us to Christmas. When you think of Christmas, one of the things we hope you think about is *Lighting up the Windows of the Canada Southern Railway Station* for this most wonderful season of the year.

A donation of only \$35.00 will put a Christmas Wreath, which includes white lights and a ribbon, in a Station window. A tag will be attached to YOUR WREATH, on which you can share a Christmas greeting, or place in memory of a loved one or friend. Please be sure to include any information you would like inscribed on the tag of your wreath.

In adopting a Christmas Wreath, you will not only help *Light up the Windows for Christmas*, but you will also be supporting the renovation and restoration of the Canada Southern Railway Station.

Imagine all of the Station windows aglow during the Holiday Season, and you can make it happen. **Just complete the half insert included in this newsletter** to place your order, or call our office at 519 633-2535. Your donation is tax deductible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND MAY WE WISH YOU THE VERY BEST OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



Your cost includes continental breakfast, lunch, supper, snacks and refreshments on Saturday and continental breakfast, snacks and refreshments on Sunday. We will also have vendors onsite in order for you to purchase paper & embellishment supplies and there will be prizes, a raffle table and a 50/50 draw. We will also be offering a "yard sale" table. If you have gently used supplies that you no longer need, bring them priced to sell and you will receive a tax receipt for your donation.

This special event will raise money for the restoration of the Canada Southern Railway Station. This will provide you the opportunity to work without the usual interruptions you are faced with when crafting at home as well as give you a chance to meet new people, pick up some fresh and creative ideas, learn about new products and techniques, share your artistic flair with others and perhaps, get a little pampering or shopping in!

SPONSORS for our meals as well as donations to our raffle table are always welcomed. If you are able to support us in these ways, and/or if you would like to purchase tickets to this great event, please call the CASO Station at 519-633-2535. Call to reserve your spot or table today (4 people per table).

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



Fall
2016

OUR STATION · OUR HERITAGE · OUR FUTURE

Station DISPATCH

2016 Events >>>

November

5-6th Antique Show
11-13th Art Show
12th Light Up Windows for Christmas

2017

January
14th 7th Annual Bridal Expo

February

3-5th Psychic Fair
25-26th 3rd Annual Scrapbooking Crop

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Office Staff

Larry Longfield, Executive Director
George Rimam, Office Administrator
Laurence Grant, Historian
Debbie Stojkovic, Accounting
Rebecca Murray, Venue Coordinator
Tyler Roberts, Hospitality Manager
Terry Marshall, Facility Manager
Stephan Carriere, Assistant Facility Maintenance

Book Your Events at the CASO Station

The Historic Canada Southern Railway Station, which was beautifully constructed in 1871-1873, was a popular attraction for traveling men and women. The Anderson Hall, once a dining hall where travelling guests would eat and rest while awaiting their trains, and the Farley Waiting room, originally used for passengers waiting to board trains, can be rented for a variety of events, including weddings, wedding receptions, conferences, meetings, parties, concerts, and many other types of events. The Anderson Hall, a 3300 square foot Historical Hall provides beautiful tall ceilings, a classic design, and ample natural light. The Farley Waiting Room is an attractive smaller venue space great for ceremonies, or a cocktail hour for socializing during the breaks throughout the day. The facility also has a licensed bar with professional staff available, and a licensed patio available - weather permitting. The building offers easy access to the facility with inclined boardwalk at the entrance, elevator and large spacious hallways and washrooms. Tables and chairs are available for use, and there is access to our newly renovated server for caterers with private entrance/exit. Opportunities for pictures in and around the building are also available at no extra charge, and there is ample onsite parking for your convenience. The CASO Station is centrally located in Historic Downtown St. Thomas near a wide variety of amenities for your convenience.

No other venue in the region comes close to matching the quality of the CASO Station. Our facility delivers outstanding features - from our large scale Anderson Hall with 16 foot ceilings, modern servery and state of the art 'no-touch' washrooms to our cozy Farley Waiting Room that comfortably seats 70 people.

Our gracious, fully restored building is a great place to connect and is easily accessible for all. Corporate packages are also available.

To Book your event contact **Tyler Roberts, Hospitality Manager**, at 519 633-2535 or email at tyler@casostation.ca.



People - Part of the Railway's History

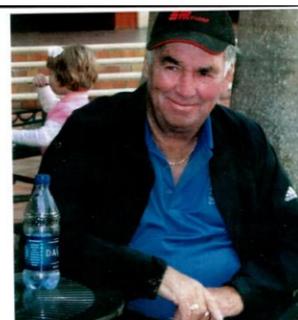
Ron Hugill, was born in 1938 and had a continuous Railway Career on the CNR from 1957-1999. In his earlier years, he spent two years as a trackman, 8 years as a foreman and four to five years as a relief Track Supervisor. During the winter months, he kept the rails clear of snow while operating a railway plow. From 1971-1974 he was a Road Master in St. Thomas, and in 1974 he worked as a Road Master/Track Supervisor in London until 1999 when he retired. Ron had only been retired for a few weeks when he commenced a part time position as Head Maintenance Supervisor on the Railway short line which ran from Orangeville back to Toronto. This line is still known as a high priority line for tourist trains. Ron also sold Railway crossings made of rubber and concrete.

In January 2010, Ron went to Florida for two months, but was only there a few weeks when he was diagnosed with some heart problems. He was flown home by emergency service to University Hospital in London, Ontario. Jim Crane, who was a personal friend, went to visit Ron after he had been in intensive care for three days. In order to get in to visit, Jim fibbed to security telling him he was a half-brother. When he walked into the room, Ron was sitting up in his bed as big as life, and his immediate words were, "How are you today, Jimmie?" Ron had his wife, Peggy, bring in his log book which had customer names. While still in his hospital bed, he sold two very large railway concrete crossing jobs for \$150,000. Ron hated to admit that he had health problems, but, as a result of them, passed away two months later.

Jim Crane stated that Ron Hugill was one of the best railway employees that London has ever known-he was clever at his job, and treated his employees fairly as long as they performed in their positions well. Jim shared that, "Ron was a truly great friend of mine!"

NOTE: Ron Hugill's wife presented Jim with two of Ron's large railway related paintings which she desired to be donated to the CASO Station where they would be seen for many years to come in his memory. As shown below, these two paintings were specifically donated to the offices of Jeff Yurek, M.P.P. and Karen Vecchio, M.P. Several small paintings were also donated to the Station.

Top photo: Ron Hugill
Bottom photo: Back- George Riman, Office Administrator(NARHF) Jim Crane
Front - Karen Vecchio, M.P., Jeff Yurek, M.P.P.



In Memoriam

We would like to pay tribute to, and honor the memory of three CASO family members:

Don Lemon
Mildred Moon
Ken Verrell

DEATH LEAVES A HEARTACHE NO ONE CAN HEAL BUT LOVE LEAVES A MEMORY NO ONE CAN STEAL

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.

7th Annual Bridal Expo

The North America Railway Hall of Fame will be hosting our 7th Annual Bridal Expo at the Canada Southern Railway Station, on Sunday January 14, 2014, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Anderson Hall will be transformed into an elegant Bridal Expo which will include several displays showcasing many local business specialties, including photographers, florists, cake decorators, caterers, make-up artists and many more.

There is no cost to participate in this event, and every bride attending will receive a free copy of "Today's Bride" magazine.

Did You Know....

That over the past several months, we have had visitors **from outside North America.....**Australia, Belgium, China, Croatia, England, Germany, Holland, India, Ireland, Japan, San Salvador, Scotland, Serbia, South Africa; **from the United States.....**Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Los Angeles, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin; **from Canada.....**Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, North West Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.

North America Railway Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony June 24th, 2016

The North America Railway Hall of Fame celebrated its 8th Induction Ceremony at the Canada Southern Railway Station with fourteen inductions into the Hall of Fame. Approximately 50 people were in attendance along with our guest speaker, **Shawn Adamsson**, Chief Cultural Officer at Ellipsis Digital and Engine SevenFour, and is a heritage activist, serving on the London Advisory Committee on Heritage and the board of the Urban League of London.

The inductees were selected and recommended by a **Local Selection Committee** consisting of Don Cosens, Dean Paddon, Nick Miknev and Linda Stevenson, and a **National Selection Committee** which includes Robert Bondi (Galesburg, IL), John McIntyre (Parsboro,NS), Jonathan Morris (Calgary, AB), and Steve Peters (St. Thomas, ON).

The inductees are as follows: **LOCAL-** Transformation of the MCR Roundhouse, London, ON, John Harold Becker, Komoka Railway Museum, BX Tower, and Selwyn Dewdney Murals; **CANADA-** Mount MacDonald Tunnel, Stratford as a Railway Centre, John Wilson Murray, Edgar Berryman, and the Railway Stations Protection Act; **NORTH AMERICA-** The High Line, Reading Viaduct & City Branch Tunnel, the Hot Metal Bridge and the Bloomingdale Trail.

A special thank you to Barb Green, Chair of the NARHF Historical Committee and to our Historian, Laurence Grant for organizing this special event.

Photo below: Shawn Adamson – Guest Speaker
Photo Bottom: Matt Janes- President of NARHF welcoming guests to the Induction Ceremony



CASO Station – Tenant Services

Since 2011, MPP Jeff Yurek's constituency office has occupied Suite 201 at the CASO Station. The office is open to all residents of Elgin-Middlesex-London who require assistance navigating or contacting the provincial government including, but is not limited to, provincial government services, agencies, boards, and ministries.

If you have any questions about the Ontario Disability Support Program, the Family Responsibility Office, Ontario Works, Social Assistance, Service Ontario, the Ontario Health Insurance Program, Community Care Access Centres, Birth Certificates or Drivers Licenses, Jeff and his constituency staff are happy to help you.

While in the constituency, Jeff enjoys meeting with local constituents, business owners, and local politicians at the office or local events to listen to their concerns and assist them in resolving issues relating to the provincial government.

In addition to the constituency office, Jeff also has a Queen's Park office located at the provincial legislature in Toronto. Unlike the constituency office, the Queen's Park office is there to assist constituents and stakeholders with questions about legislation and committee work.

Whitney, Marlene, and Trish are all happily ready to help you at the constituency office St. Thomas, while Alexandra can assist you through the Queen's Park office in Toronto. Together Jeff and his staff members work diligently to help residents of Elgin-Middlesex-London solve their concerns relating to the provincial government in a timely fashion.

If you would like to contact either of Jeff's offices the contact information is as follows: **Constituency Office:** Suite 201, West Wing, 750 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, ON, N5P 1E2. **Tel:** 519-631-0666 **Fax:** 519-631-9478. **Email:** jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org. **Queen's Park Office:** Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Room 445, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A8. **Tel:** 416-325-3965 **Fax:** 416-325-3988. **Email:** jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org

Photo: Jeff Yurek, M.P.P. and staff



CASO Building Maintenance

As you may be aware, there is always a need for ongoing maintenance of the Station, both inside and out. Our maintenance staff does a lot of work on the building which sometimes goes unnoticed, and so we thank Terry Marshall and Stephan Carriere for all that they do to keep the building in shape.

The 161 windows on the building are in desperate need of repair and you can assist us through our Window Maintenance program. The caulking on each window needs to be replaced, sanded and then repainted.

The photo shows Stephan Carriere, assistant facilities maintenance person, painting windows on the second floor, north side of the building.

To date, we have raised \$5,520.00, which is approximately 20% of our goal.

The cost to repair each window is \$150.00 and we would appreciate your assistance and support of this project.



-----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