

Railworks Coalition

The amalgamation of the four rail groups in St. Thomas was announced on November 16, 2016, under the name, **RAILWORKS COALITION**. We would like to update you relative to the progress of this plan.

The four rail groups consist of Elgin County Railway Museum (1988), North America Railway Hall of Fame (1996), On Track St. Thomas (1994) and the Iron Horse Festival (1994). The intent is to effectively manage and promote Railway Heritage Assets for the benefit of St. Thomas and surrounding communities, and as a tourism and economic development asset. We will be working towards a full amalgamation of the organizations, recognizing that this may take several years. A full amalgamation means single legal entity with articles and bylaws, single charitable status and single financial statements...

A proposed roadmap, plan and timeline for the **RAILWORKS COALITION** amalgamation has been prepared and will be presented to the boards of the various groups. Once approved at the board levels, it will be taken to the memberships at the Annual General Meetings to be approved by the membership. Once this has been done, we will send out the approved roadmap plan and timelines to you.

STAY TUNED!

Fundraising Efforts and Results

Fundraising has always been a major part of what we have done, what we are doing, and what we will need to do, in order to complete the restoration of the Canada Southern Railway Station. We have a number of fundraising programs that we have used, and *continue to use* in our attempt to raise the revenue needed to complete this project, including, **Adopt-A** window, door, transom window, artifact, bricks, soffit brackets, and planks for the boardwalk. **Other fundraising sources** include memberships, sponsorship of rooms, suites, hallways, washrooms, the elevator, staircases, the bar, servery, the canopy, landscaping and the donor wall. **Funds have also been raised** from events such as golf tournaments, Dancing with the Stars, our annual Fish Fry event and a scrapbooking crop. The total amount raised from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2016, is \$1,687,496.95, with every dollar going to our restoration project.

We thank all of you who have supported our project and encourage you to continue your support. If you have not yet participated in this tremendous project, we ask you to consider becoming a part of this great undertaking.

We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. But Remember – **TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



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

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Festival of Wreaths Christmas 2016

The Festival of Wreaths is a new fund-raising program which will hopefully be an annual event here at the Station.

Fifteen local businesses and individuals each donated \$50.00 for a wreath which we provided for them, for the purpose of decorating it, and then returning it to us to auction off in December.

We were able to raise approximately \$1,000 towards the restoration of the Station.

Below are photos of three of the wreaths that were decorated and available for our auction.



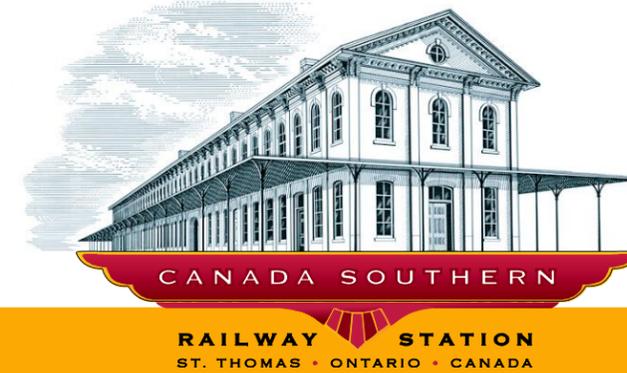
The South Platform -Paving Brick Project

In the fall of 2009, the 45,000 heritage clay paving stones or bricks that formed the platform on the south side of the CASO Station were moved from the Station to Geerlink's Home Hardware where they were to be stored until a later date. We wish to thank Geerlink's for their assistance in their transport as well as their patience with us.

These paving stones were made in Saginaw, Michigan and date back to the beginnings of the Canada Southern Railway and formed the platform on the south side of the Station.

Green Edge Property Maintenance owner, Tom Preston took on the task of re-laying the paver bricks beginning on October 28, 2016 and completed the job on November 17, 2016. It now enhances the look on the south side and allows several options for its future use, both for the Station and the public.

Below are two photos showing the progress of the work being done:



Spring

2017

OUR STATION · OUR HERITAGE · OUR FUTURE

Station DISPATCH

2017 Events >>>

March

31st 3rd Annual Dancing With the Stars

May

1st Annual General Meeting
6th 5th Annual Fish Fry

August

17th FreshFest
17-20th Iron Horse Festival
18-20th Psychic Fair
17-27th Canadian-Swiss Dream Circus

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Office Staff

Larry Longfield, Executive Director
George Riman, 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

Annual General Meeting 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the North America Railway Hall of Fame will be held Monday, May 1, 2017 at the Canada Southern Railway Station, 750 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, commencing at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the financial statements of the corporation for the fiscal year ended, October 31, 2016, to elect Directors, to appoint auditors and to transact other business that may properly come before the meeting. Any member of the North America Railway Hall of Fame whose membership is paid-up as of May 1, 2017 is eligible to vote in the Business portion of this meeting.

We appreciate the support of our members, and would encourage you to be part of our AGM Process, where you will have opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, Staff and other members of the North America Railway Hall of Fame.

NOTE: If membership is current, and you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, you may, by written proxy, appoint another member to attend and vote on your behalf, or you may appoint a board executive member to vote on your behalf. Please see and review the proxy form included as an insert in this Spring 2017 issue of the NARHF Newsletter, **The Station Dispatch**.

Many members have not attended an Annual General Meeting and many who support the North America Railway Hall of Fame are not fully informed as to what happens at an AGM or why. Financial support of the organization is essential and greatly appreciated, but the AGM is also the members' way for giving direction to the Board of Directors in the running of the organization. An AGM is an annual review of the operation of the organization. Reports are provided from each and every part of the organization, which will assist in understanding the activity and decision-making processes for the year. There is a nomination of directors required to fill any vacancies on the Board, and a slate of nominees is brought forward from which a vote is taken. Votes are also taken on new by-laws being considered, or changes to current by-laws.

Your attendance at our Annual General Meeting would not only allow you the opportunity to be part of the decision making process of the organization, but would be a tremendous encouragement to the board and staff who represent you as we continue to work together to make progress towards our goals of promoting our railway heritage in St. Thomas and restoring the Canada Southern Railway Station.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON MAY 1, 2017!

Gifts for the Future – Legacy Program North America Railway Hall of Fame

What Will Your Legacy Be?

“Gifts for the Future” will ensure the long term viability of the Canada Southern Railway Station, a major project of the North America Railway Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame’s mission is to recognize, honor and preserve our railway heritage.

Planned gifts should be carefully considered. They are legally documented plans designed to provide a meaningful gift to a charitable organization like the North America Railway Hall of Fame. Planned gifts are usually arranged now and received by the charity in the future. Gifts can include a bequest in your will, life insurance policy, or charitable gift annuity. Not only do these contributions provide a gift to the Hall of Fame they are also a source of tax planning.

The needs of the North America Railway Hall of Fame are assessed annually, and an unrestricted donation can be used where it is needed most. If you choose, your gift can be designated for specific sponsorship of a chosen component of the Station.

WAYS TO GIVE

Bequests - A bequest is making a gift of cash or assets to the Hall of Fame. You gain the satisfaction in knowing that your thoughtfulness will provide support for years to come. Also, your estate may receive significant tax credits that can be passed on to heirs.

Appreciated Securities-A gift of publicly traded, appreciated securities can qualify for special benefits because of income tax savings. You can watch your gift have an impact while enjoying tax benefits.

Gifts of Property- Real estate, art, jewellery and other collections can be donated to the agency. After an independent appraisal, you can be provided with a tax receipt.

Life Insurance- A gift of an existing life insurance policy naming the North America Railway Hall of Fame as a beneficiary can provide a sizable gift, while you could enjoy income tax credits. A gift through life insurance can make a significant gift possible while leaving other assets intact for the family or the donor.

Life Income Gifts-The Charitable Gift Annuity and Charitable Remainder Trusts are gifts from which the Donor and the Hall of Fame receive benefit. These gifts provide a donation, while ensuring an income for the donor for life. With a Charitable Gift Annuity you receive a significant tax free income, while a Charitable Remainder Trust provides the donor with a large one-time tax credit.

By making a planned gift to the North America Railway Hall of Fame you are building a future for the Canada Southern Railway Station and recognizing and preserving railway history. You are encouraged to seek professional legal, financial and estate planning advice before deciding on a course of action. If you would like to discuss ways in which you can make a planned gift to the Hall of Fame, please call (519) 633-2535 for more information. **(The Canada Southern Railway Station is a project of the North America Railway Hall of Fame)**

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

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.

In our October edition of the *Station Dispatch* we indicated that the 161 windows on the building are in desperate need of repair and asked for your assistance through our Window Maintenance program, at a cost of \$150 per window. The replacement or fixing of the sashes, muntin bars, casings, latches, window panes, as well as glazing and painting is required.

We would like to report that to date we have raised \$10,285.00, which is approximately 43% of our goal. The cost to repair each window is \$150.00 and we would appreciate your assistance and support of this project. Your donation is eligible for a tax receipt.

In Memoriam

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

Mary Elsom
John Dalecki
Theodore Hrushowy
Wilf McKibbin
Quentin Mount

**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

On January 7, 2017, the CASO Station hosted our 7th Annual Bridal Show. This year we held the event on a Saturday, and there was no charge for our guests to attend the event. As a result, we featured over 25 vendors, from DJ’s and photographers to caterers and florists, who offered the brides-to-be a wealth of information on their products and services. Approximately 200 people, including 70 potential brides, bridesmaids, maids of honor, mothers and mothers-in-law left the show fully motivated and armed with lots of information about all of the many creative and practical options there are for their **BIG DAY**, direct from vendors from St. Thomas and Elgin County.

All proceeds raised from vendor rentals and donations will go toward the continuing restoration of the Station.

And yes, the result of another successful event, our 8th Annual Bridal Show is being planned for 2018!

Circus Coming to Town



If you have ever wanted to have the experience of seeing a circus under the big top, then St. Thomas is definitely the place to be this summer when the Canadian-Swiss Dream Circus rolls into the Railway City.

Running August 17-27, 2017, the circus will be just one of a number of community events to be held in what could be described as possibly the ultimate pop-up venue-a 19,000 square foot circus tent being erected on the former railway lands located between the St. Thomas Timken Community Centre and the Elgin County Railway Museum. A joint venture between the St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Railway City Tourism, the tent will be in place from the middle of July to mid-October.

This venue will be available to other organizations or individuals to rent, enabling them to host events that are far bigger and better than what they can do locally right now. It could be used for concerts, corporate barbeques or picnics, anything speaker related where you wanted to bring in a big name, and it is not limited to bleacher-style seating, but can be also be converted to use with tables and chairs or no stands at all.

The biggest thing with this venue and event is that we are bringing back that heritage, that nostalgic feeling of Jumbo and the trains which has become the image of St. Thomas.

CASO Station – Tenant Services

Las Chicas Del Café, owned by Maria Fiallos and Valeria Fiallos-Soliman, two sisters from Nicaragua, began their roasting operations in the historic Canada Southern Railway Station in the summer of 2015.

However, prior to this, on November 4, 2005, they decided to take three generations of coffee growers and one generation of coffee importers a step further and founded Las Chicas Del Café, where they began roasting and packaging coffee out of their location on Exeter Road, in London, Ontario, which is a long way from their native Nicaragua and their family’s coffee farm in Las Sabanas, Nicaragua.

THEIR ROASTS: Selecting the perfect roast for their green beans is the most important job with each year’s harvest arrival. They strive to highlight the best attributes that a bean variety can offer in the cup. They are eager to discover the subtle and delicate flavor characteristics that each harvest brings. They always remember that coffee is a fruit, with its flavors influenced by its climate, soil conditions and processing. When a fruit is picked at its peak of ripeness it offers a sweet aroma and smooth body. These seeds filled with sugars produce caramel and chocolate notes as they caramelize in the roasting process.

THEIR ROASTERY: Due to the growth of their business and the need to purchase a large second coffee roaster, they were looking to create a new home that truly captures and portrays what coffee means to them, their family and their coffee growers back in Nicaragua. They chose the Canada Southern Railway Station because the Station was built during the early 1870s, around the same time that coffee was being established in Nicaragua, and when their family was setting roots in Las Sabanas. The fact that 140 years later the two worlds that mean the most to them, their coffee heritage and their life and community in Canada, would intersect in this historic building is not lost on them.

Their coffee is a true testament to craftsmanship as it is handled and processed by hand, from the time the coffee cherries are picked to the time the beans are packaged for their consumers.

From plantation to cup, passion and traditions have paved the way for their coffee journey and they are so happy their home for their roastery embodies this.

THEIR MISSION: “*Tradition, quality and responsibility. This is our mission and it is reflected in every aspect of our business.*”

The Photo below shows the Las Chicas Del Café Staff, Left to Right: Maria (co-owner), Yolanda, Rachael, Valeria (co-owner) and Tasha



-----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