

# CBC's history takes to the railways

TORONTO (CP) — At the CBC, they call it the MacGyver team.

They're a hand-picked crew of crafts people — carpenters, painters, electricians — who can perform miracles when called upon.

In recent days they've been filling a Via Rail yard in suburban Toronto with the sounds of hammering and buzz saws as they outfit a specially commissioned train that will cross the country next month as part of CBC-TV's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The train is in Capreol Sept. 18.

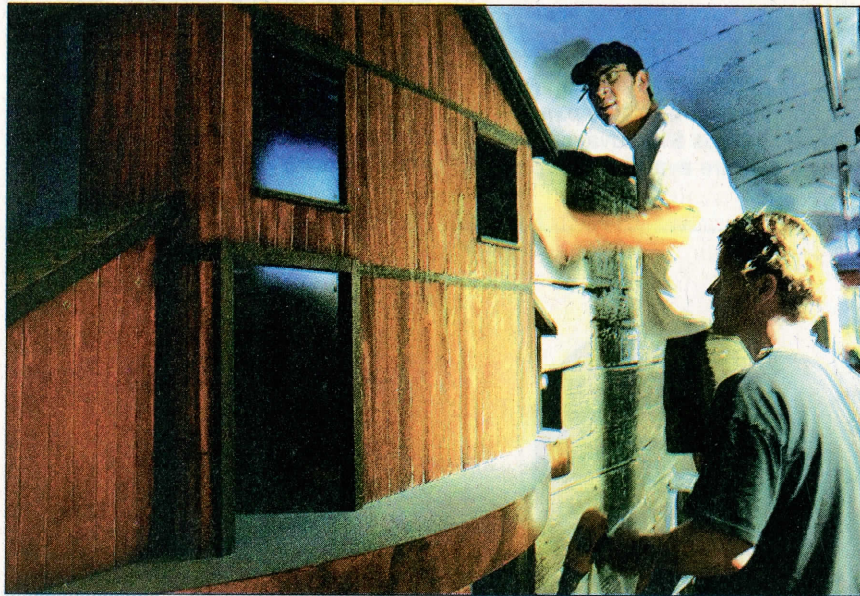
Julie Dossett, senior manager for the public broadcaster's train project, says that like the 1980s TV hero, the eight-man staging and installation crew is the best at displaying ingenuity and creativity to get the job done.

"Shoelaces and bubblegum and they can make incredible things, it's our top guys," Dossett says.

Good thing, too.

One day recently they were seen handling some famous but fragile national icons.

In the rail car that will be used for the history of CBC children's programming, a portion of the Friendly Giant's grey castle wall — including



CBC PHOTO

**Mr. Dressup's treehouse is prepared in Toronto in a VIA rail car that will be used as a moving museum for CBC's 50th anniversary celebrations.**

the window that Jerome the Giraffe used to poke his head through — was leaning against the wall. Nearby was owl's treehouse from Mr. Dressup.

The tickle trunk was said to be on

its way, too, from the CBC broadcast museum downtown.

The anniversary train will depart Sept. 7 for its whistle-stopping tour across Canada, ending in Halifax on Oct. 5.

Visitors will also see a replica of the old Don Messer's Jubilee set, even an authentic-looking news set where they can sit down, put on the mike, and read a Peter Mansbridge script off the TelePrompter.

"They get to be an anchor and then they walk off with a videotape of their performance," Dossett says.

At various stops along the CBC train's route, five tents will be erected trackside with content focusing on various themes: sports, news, new media, kids' programming and merchandising.

In the sports tent, for example, fans can sit at the Hockey Night in Canada set and have their picture taken with cutout images of Ron MacLean and Don Cherry.

The train will also have a working broadcast facility and various CBC personalities will get on and off during the trip. Programs such as News-world Morning and Canada Now, radio's Richardson's Roundup and even Radio Canada TV Ce Soir and Ontario en direct will do live broadcasts.

"It's so interesting to start to see them working together," Dossett says.

Aug 29, 2002.

The Sudbury Star