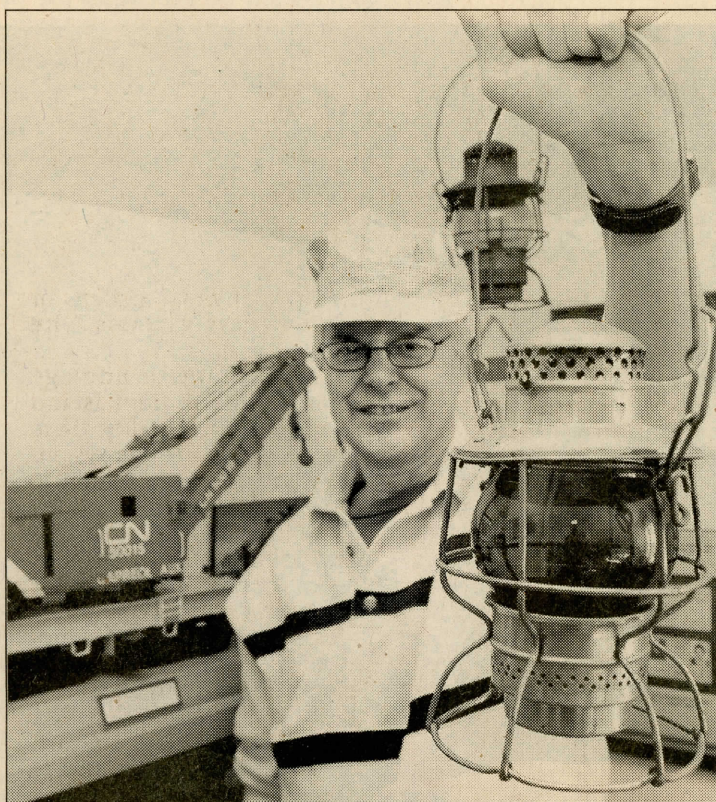


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JOHN E. LIGHTFOOT JR./THE SUDBURY STAR

**Robert Michelutti, president of The Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre in Capreol, with some railway equipment from days past.**

# Railway museum picks up steam

## Expansion in the works for Capreol tourist draw

**BY LAURA STRADIOTTO**  
The Sudbury Star

Plans to expand the park surrounding The Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre will be unveiled Thursday.

The expansion at Prescott Park will accommodate two electric locomotives donated by Inco Limited, a steel caboose and an antique snow plow cart.

"We've been acquiring these exhibits over the years," said Bob Michelutti, president of the board of directors.

### MEETING TONIGHT

- Learn more about the expansion project at the Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre.
- Meeting starts at 7 p.m. today, room 204, Capreol Millennium Centre.



"The problem is to bring them to where our current exhibits are, we have to lay some tracks down, place them on the tracks and then build some security perimeter fence around them."

The project will cost about \$75,000.

The museum is also set to inherit a molten copper car, used by Inco to transport molten copper from the smelter to the refinery in Copper Cliff.

"It's like a large thermos bottle, 60-feet long, that transports molten copper back and forth," said Michelutti.

The exhibits are being stored by NRE-Alco Locomotives of Canada in Capreol.

The museum secured \$5,000 from Arts Vest, The Council for Business and the Arts in Canada, which matched the railroad track and ties donated by CN Rail.

"We'd like to get this started, at least lay the tracks when the snow goes," said Michelutti. "We'll hire a contractor to start putting the tracks down."

The museum has also applied for a Trillium Foundation grant.

The Prescott Park expansion is one of the ideas that resulted from a \$75,000 feasibility study, funded primarily by FedNor, conducted two years ago.

The museum gets about 1,600 visitors a year. The study, however, said the museum could draw 22,500 visitors a year if it took on a \$5-million expansion project.

"We haven't given up on the project," said Michelutti. The board of directors intend on completing the project in small steps.

"After this, our next push is to try and restore some of our rolling stock, especially our 6077 locomotive," said Michelutti.

The steam engine rests outside and, consequently, the surface has deteriorated over the years. Michelutti said it will cost about \$150,000 to "make it look brand new again."

The high price tag is due to the removal of asbestos.

Michelutti is hoping not only Greater Sudbury, but communities across Northern Ontario, will take ownership of the project.

"The railroad is the reason why we have mining here today and why Sudbury exists," he said.