

CBC train rekindles many memories

By Lara Bradley
THE SUDBURY STAR

Of 50 years worth of CBC-TV props, Mr. Dressup's flowered tickle trunk and Rusty the Rooster's faded fabric attracted the most fan interest.

The CBC Radio-Canada 50th Anniversary VIA Rail Train stopped at the Sudbury station for about four hours Wednesday afternoon on its way across the country.

By hour two, more than 300 people had made their way through the train cars filled with memorabilia and memories.

"There's been a steady flow," said Cliff Dempster, who is with the sports department of the travelling Show and Tell: Growing Up Canadian Museum Exhibit Car.

Reaction across the country to the travelling train has differed depending on the city, he said. In Kamloops, B.C., more than 1,000 lined up to visit the free exhibit.

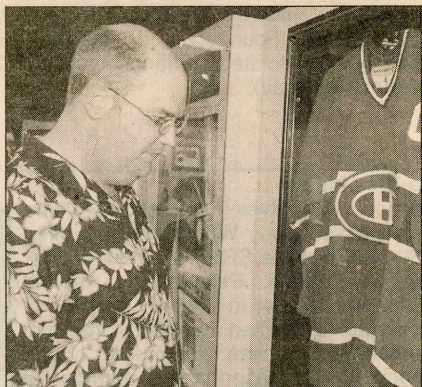
"Hey, there's Rusty the Rooster," said Wayne Quinn, of Sudbury. "I used to watch that when I was a kid."

The Friendly Giant ran from 1958 to 1986, reaching many generations of children.

Quinn and his wife Marion grew up in the Parry Sound area where they had only one channel on their black-and-white sets: CBC.

"We had no American TV," Marion added. "Not like today."

Other favourites the couple remembers include Howdy Doody, Front Page Challenge and Hockey



John E. Lightfoot Jr./THE SUDBURY STAR

Bill Turcott of Hanmer, a big fan of CBC-TV's Hockey Night In Canada, has a look at Saku Koivu's captain sweater for the Montreal Canadians. The CBC Radio-Canada 50th Anniversary VIA train stopped in the downtown station in Sudbury on Wednesday.

Night in Canada, although sometimes all you got was snow, said Marion.

"It's really cool seeing the tickle trunk," said Heidi Ulrichsen, 22. "The trunk is an icon of my childhood."

But for her mom Brenda, Razzle Dazzle and Adventures in Rainbow Country were her childhood staples.

Parents, kids visit

Tonya Healey, who brought her preschooler and eight-week-old infant on the tour, said she hated going to half-day kindergarten classes because it meant missing Mr. Dressup.

Now her son watches the show, which originally aired from 1967 to 1996.

"But it's not the same because Casey and Finnegan aren't on it," she added.

Lilian and Alex Neveroff of Sudbury visited the train because they've always watched CBC TV.

Alex also has a personal connection to it. He used to play Boris, "a crazy Russian," on a CBC comedy show called Seeing Things.

Looking at the Hockey Night in Canada display, Bill Turcott of Hanmer said: "I came to see the history ... And to see the tickle trunk."

"Hey, it says here the Hockey Night in Canada score is Canada's second anthem. It's probably true."

Sept 19, 2002. Sudbury Star.