

Name ? Wally ~~Connon~~
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Apt. 1402, 46 Panorama Court,
Rexdale Ontario, M9V 4A4,
Feb.04, 1999.

Mrs. Roy Thompson,
99 Dennie St.,
Capreol Ontario,
POM iHO.

Dear Mrs Thompson,

My friend Mr. Cal Watters mentioned to me that you had done some excellent work in setting up a railway museum in ~scott Park. Since I was Superintendent of Transportation in Capreol from 1967 to 1971, and was somewhat involved in setting up the railway stock in Prescott Park, I felt that I can perhaps assist your comittee by sharing some information with you.

The concept of this park was the brain child of Harold Prescott, a locomotive engineer and Mayor of Capreol at that time. It had been decided to declare a week dedicated to Canadian National and also honor Capreol's hockey player, Doug Mohns. My principal interest was in obtaining a locomotive and caboose to highlight this park. We were able to obtain engine 6077 from Fort Rouge shop in Winnipeg. When the locomotive arrived it was equipped with a box tender rather than the Vanderbilt tender it had originally been equipped with. I called the locomotive foreman in Fort Rouge shop and asked if they could find a Vanderbilt tender for us. We were happy to be advised that there was a Vanderbilt tender in Fort Rouge but it was off a 3500 Freight engine. I consulted with local shop officials and locomotive engineers including Harold Prescott and it was agreed that the said Vanderbilt tender was quite acceptable. On it's arrival locomotive engineers, firemen, and shop personel went to work and restored the 6077 with original paint, engine number and Canadian National box design logo.

Harold Prescott and his volunteers did a magnificent job in restoring engine 6077. The next problem was to find a suitable spot to place this engine. It was decided that the spot chosen would be known as Prescott Park. This presented us with a somewhat gigantic problem but there was enough enthusiasm to carry the project through to completion.

On the date chosen to place the engine in the park, all oi C.N. personel pitched in and fortunately I got the whole movement on 8m. film. I don't recall anyone else filming the operation. I covered the movement from the shop track to the final resting place in Prescott Park. The locomotive was pulled by the yard engine with locomotive engineer Prescott and his wife riding in the cab of the 6077. The yard engine had to pull the engine across Young Street and await the Maintenance of Way to open the main line track and swing it over so as to connect with the rails that had previously been laid in

preparation for engine 6077. My film coverage should give some indication of the difficulty in moving this engine

-2-into the park on such a precarious curvature. The natural tendency was for this giant of the rails to climb over the rail. Considerable oil was poured along the flange way of the rail and eventually the engine was in it's final resting place. A great sigh of relief went up from all who participated, Roadmasters, Section Foremen and Officials. Unfortunately I cannot recall the names of all who crowded around the front of the engine on the official date of the dedication. A few of the names that I can recall are President J.R.MacMillan, Vice President Doug Gonder, Area Manager Walter Mlt~hell, Doug Mohn's brother who was an engineer working out of Capreol and received a citation from Mr Gonder congratulating him on saving the life of a drowning child at Ella Lake. Perhaps members of your committee may be able to name some of the others because everybody played an important part in what was accomplished at that time.

The film which I have is included with several other parts, first of all there is the Winnipeg Santa Claus parade which we took in Winnipeg. Coupled to this portion is a copy of a Capreol Santa Claus Parade comencing with the Oddfellows float. At the end of this section you will find the start of my filming of the moving of the engine 6077 from the shop to the park. After this portion comes the parade featuring the hockey players and especially Doug Mohns. You will no doubt recognise other hockey players such as Stan Makita and others. You might find this of interest.

The remainder of the film is of the ice sculpturing contest one winter in Capreol. Our daughter Carolyn did the Humpty Dumpty sitting on the wall and another is by Jim Weaver , Operations Mangager, who did one of Winston Churchill. Other footage was purely family and would be of little interest to any other than George Gill and family and my own family.

The reason I am not able to eliminate the irrelevant portions of the film is due to the fact that I cannot find my film splicer. For this reason I am sending you this letter and the film to George Gill who may be able to edit it for you. He will also have a copy of this letter. I know he has an 8m projector.

I do have a recording of engine sounds which I can put on a cassette and perhaps you could play this for background sounds during the showing of the film. Another thought is the possibility of having a video put together and include the engine sounds.

Please accept my congratulations on the job you are doing. I am sure that this project will be a real asset to your community. One last word, if my memory is not as sharp as I would like it to be it will never get any better because I've spent 82 years getting to this point
Sincerely yours,

c . c. George Gill