

Capreol railroad museum continues to attract patrons

Heritage centre now offering memberships

BY TRACY VAILLANCOURT

Capreol's John Lavois has nothing but good things to say about the Northern Ontario Railroad and Heritage Centre in his hometown.

The museum and heritage centre is now offering annual membership passes, which entitle the valid cardholder to unlimited visits to the museum, a 10 per cent discount at the Gift Shop plus a spring and fall newsletter, which will be delivered to their residence. The museum is located at 26 Bloor St. in Capreol.

This is a great deal and one he plans on taking advantage of, said Lavois.

"I've been to the museum at least a dozens times and I think it's just a great place everyone should visit at least one time," said Lavois.

The museum proudly displays pictures and artifacts which detail Capreol's proud history and which go a long way in explaining why so many people have called Capreol home over so many decades, said Lavois.

According to information supplied from the museum, the house the museum currently resides in was originally built in 1916 for Capreol's first CN superintendent, S.J. Faught.

It continued to serve as the residence for many of the CN superintendents that came after Faught up to the 1950s.

The walls are made with lath covered with cement, mixed with horsehair as a binder, and then plastered. This was the typical style of construction in Capreol up until the 1950s.

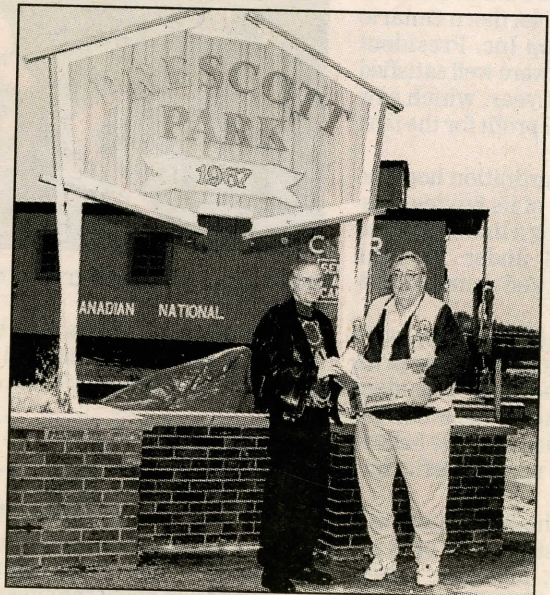
Some other historical features include the original oak flooring, original 1916 brick fireplace, three original 1920s light fixtures, oak baseboards, sawed oak window frames, original hot water registers in every room, 1916 oak French doors, original eight-pane windows, and, the "eyebrow" shaped roofing above the upstairs windows on the east and west sides of the house. Because of these preserved features, the building itself has become an officially designated heritage site, according to a bylaw passed by the former Capreol Town Council in November of 2000.

The museum is divided into various rooms mostly based on themes that pertain to the history of Capreol.

The prime theme, of course, is railroading and its effect on the area.

The tea room is where guests can sit and enjoy a nice cup of tea just as they walk into the museum. Across from there, guests can examine authentic old-style domestic items and accessories used by Capreol's early citizens in the Heritage Room.

Upstairs are the Lumbering Room, the Mining Room, and the Railroading Room, where guests can examine old artifacts, maps and pictures and learn



THE MUSEUM proudly displays pictures and artifacts which detail Capreol's proud history.

how each industry contributed to the story that is Capreol and its surrounding area.

Additionally, there is a Model Train room, which features a model train to entertain kids, as well as a pair of connected Morse code devices.

Throughout the walls of the entire museum one will find a variety of pictures and information about such topics as the visit of King George VI, the various types of trains and train-related structures, and the circumstances surrounding the ghost town of Sellwood to name a few.

Prescott Park is yet another feature to the museum. The park is home to a 6077 Steam Engine, a rules instruction car, a wooden caboose and many other railway artifacts.

According to tour guide Melissa Sbrega, the vast majority of the artifacts in the museum were donated by members of the public at large.

"When people come here they're always surprised at what they see," said Sbrega.

The museum has expanded the flower garden from just at the front of the museum house to all the way around. Due to this expansion they now need flower donations.

"There are no specific type of flowers that we are looking for because we'll take any kind," added Sbrega.

They are also looking for items to be donated for a garage sale that they will be holding at a later date. All proceeds from the garage sale will be put back into the museum to further expand it.

To obtain an annual pass or to donate any articles or flowers, contact the museum at 858-5050.