

Railroad museum unveils additions

\$85,000 project comes to fruition

BY HAROLD CARMICHAEL

The Sudbury Star

There's a lot more to see at Capreol's Prescott Park.

On Sunday, Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre representatives unveiled five additions to the Bloor Street park — including

two Inco Limited electric locomotives and a CN Rail snowplow.

The park, thanks to an \$85,000 project spearheaded by an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant of \$55,000, boasts nine pieces of railway history.

The provincial money went toward moving donated equipment by flatbed and then cranes to move the pieces onto rails in the park, all done last October.

"As you look around at all

the big equipment, including the steam engine, the Trillium Foundation played quite a big part, but people built the tracks," said Stu Thomas, chairman of the museum's volunteer board at the unveiling ceremonies. "We actually went to the CN railyard and collected 600 feet of track. We reassembled it (here). You don't see it, but it was a big job to get done."

Opened in 1993, the museum attracts about 1,700

people a year. It is open for tours.

The museum's next project will be sandblasting and repainting the 1944 steam engine at the park's entrance. Funds are being sought for the project, which is getting help from the private sector.

Also on the horizon is a push for more space to display railway artifacts and historical items "now being kept in garages and in safes" due to the museum being full, said

Thomas.

"We have to expand," he said in an interview. "We just don't have enough space. There is a tremendous amount of material we want to put on display and we need room to put it in."

Dignitaries attending the unveiling ceremony included Nickel Belt MP Ray Bonin, Nickel Belt MPP France Gelin, Coun. Doug Craig and Ontario Trillium Foundation representative Jean Warwick.

June 2, 2008