

THE LINDSAY POST

Railroaders aim to recreate Lindsay station

KAWARTHA LAKES - May 13, 2010

The Lindsay and District Model Railroaders say getting charitable status, and public support from the city, will place its railway heritage centre and train display "on track with a full head of steam."

Spokesman Russell Moore updated the council at its May 11 meeting on the railroaders' continuing ambitious plans for Memorial Park, and got their unanimous support.

"The ultimate goal is for a railway heritage centre at Lindsay's Memorial Park to showcase and display our city's rich railway history built upon the success of the current train display and through operating "HO" scale miniatures, displayed for the education and entertainment of our citizens and tourists alike," Moore said of the railroaders' grand plans.

Designs also include recreating Lindsay's second railway station which was called "Union Station" by its 1879 builders, the Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay Railway and Victoria Railway.

Moore, the president of the club, said it could house the public washrooms and the miniature trains, along with railway artifacts on loan from the National Museum of Canada.

"We have been advised that all we need is a secure setting and the museum will be more than happy to loan us displays of the museum's artifacts."

Moore said it is also the ideal site for a tourist information centre. To date, the Stelco 40 from Old Mill Park and a caboose found in a farmer's field in Bethany have been moved to the park as have tracks from behind Rona Cashway.

Moore said there were a number of projects planned for this summer. The goal is to restore the caboose to its 1951 remake as Canadian National caboose #79078, similar to the caboose destroyed by fire in 2008; and restoring the steam locomotive to its 1912 origins as Toronto-Hamilton & Buffalo Railway Locomotive #42.

Ward 12 Coun. Gord James said the project had been talked about for a few years now and "everyone's 100% in support of this project moving forward."

Ward 3 Coun. Dave Hodgson said it was a win-win" for the whole city, not just Lindsay. He said the city lacks a tourism information centre from the south and to locate one with a railway heritage centre and the train display fits well, especially with Lindsay's history as a rail town.

Ward 16 Coun. David Marsh admitted he had come full circle on the project and now supports it. He said he sees people stopping and taking photos and it is nice to see the park being used.

"As it expands, it will only get better."

Igervais@thepost.ca

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