



TRANSFER

Vol. 17 No.2 SHELBURNE FALLS TROLLEY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2008

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SHELBURNE FALLS & COLRAIN STREET RAILWAY

President's Column

The Museum's Board of Directors has spent some time this summer discussing our priorities and plans. We have agreed that safety and appearance are important goals to keep working on. The sharp-eyed visitors will notice many changes this summer to improve safety and appearance. Most notably, we have moved the boxcar and coach to the North Track, and made the remaining equipment up into a short work train on the Middle Track. We have also cleaned up the freight house dock, removing the badly deteriorated section that was not only unsightly but also a hazard for anyone foolish enough to try to walk on it. The section of dock alongside the building has had all its rotten deck boards replaced (thanks to a grant from Amherst Railway Society). Some of the most obvious debris that has been lying around the yard is gone as well.

The board has also made a commitment to restoration. This is evident by the work that has taken place on the CV 4015 caboose. The obvious work is on the interior, where the cupola has been painted and hardware is going back on. Less obvious are the 'saddles' on the roof for the roofwalks, yet to come. The board has agreed that getting a fire-resistant carbarn should be our main long-term objective. Carbarns and roundhouses and their contents have a long, sad history of fire. Also, we can't really add to our trolley collection until we have sheltered, secure space to keep any new additions and to perform restorations in inclement weather. The board is working on cost estimates, design options, grantwriting and fundraising for the carbarn. If you can help by making a donation to the carbarn fund, please do so.

Looking ahead is important, but we need to make sure that our current assets are maintained and preserved as well. Work will continue on repairing the freight house roof and clapboards; we still have some money

from an Amherst Railway Society grant to work on that.

We have agreed that track extension will take a back seat for now, but we won't take any steps that would preclude extending track down Depot St or around the buildings in the future.

As always, this is your museum. We welcome your thoughts and ideas, and especially your time and donations.

Sam Bartlett

Weathering the Weather

We've had a series of rainy weekends at the museum, and ridership is below last year's by about 20%. The soggy economy may play a role in this as well, many tourist areas are taking a hit this year. However, last year was a record year for us, and at this point, we are having our second best year ever. While we would like to have increased ridership every year, and would be glad to have more visitors on some of those long, quiet afternoons, we are pleased that people keep coming (and coming back).

