

JANUARY 2024

RESTORATION & CHRISTMAS TRAINS UPDATE

Restoration work was halted in the later part of 2023 to get the rolling stock ready for our Christmas trains. We are pleased to report that this was our most successful holiday train to date. Work is now full speed ahead on a number of projects, and we will bring you up to date on work done in 2023.



#9 FIREBOX RESTORATION

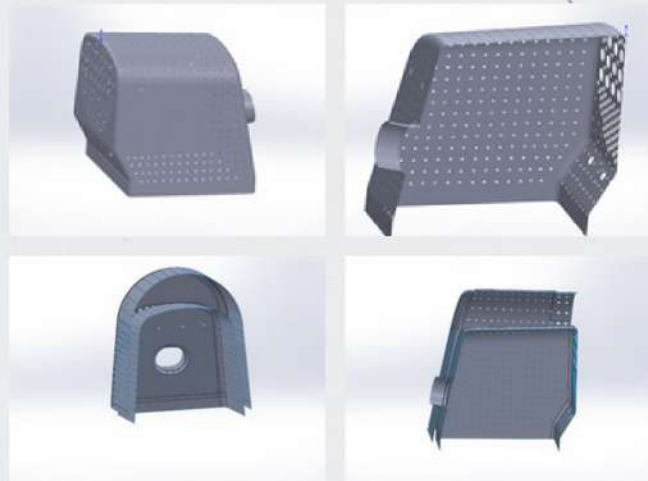
After extensive inspections and NDT testing it was decided that instead of doing some selected patches in the inner firebox sheets and crown sheet that the most prudent plan for long term service was to replace the inner firebox sheets, crown sheet and back sheet. Before work commenced, we hired a company from Toronto to digitally scan the interior, this gave an accurate location of all staybolt locations.

This firebox restoration being done to ensure the continued safe operation and extend the locomotives operation for another generation to enjoy.

New technology is being used to design and build, we are leading in this area. Five years ago a new innovative exhaust system designed in Europe was constructed by WCR this will assist in reduced coal and water consumption and lessen emissions. This is the first locomotive in North America to have this design in use.



Digital scanning to the computer



Samples of the 3D scans being done by a Toronto company and computer animations by the WCR team. These scans will allow for manufacturing to be carried out more efficiently and with precise accuracy.

WATERLOO CENTRAL RAILWAY



New backsheet



Old backsheet

#9 FIREBOX RESTORATION CONTINUED

The removal of all the stay bolts, some 988, the inner sheets, crown sheet and back sheet entailed an immense amount of work. We engaged the services of Steam Services of America as a consultant. The back sheet was removed and sent to the Age of Steam Roundhouse in Ohio USA for fabrication and flanging of a new sheet organized by SSOA for us.

In the coming weeks the backsheet will be tacked in place so accurate measurements can be taken for the fabrication of the inner side sheets and crown sheet. The team of Jim, Kim, Irvon and our young volunteer Jake have put in countless hours to get to this stage.

Ayr Welding assisted in cutting out the inner firebox and will be fabricating and welding in the new inner firebox. The new staybolts will be filet welded in place as opposed to tapping the sheet and threading the bolts. This has been common practice in the UK, Germany and for all new builds and restoration work for many years. The procedure saves time and expense, providing a high-quality job.

COACH WCRX 2003

The team took on major restoration work of 2003. The lower couple of feet of outer sheet metal was rotted due to window seals leaking over the years. The old insulation was removed and new insulation and sheeting installed. Windows had new rubber seals installed. Heating, wiring, and plumbing upgraded. New carpet installed and seat cushions repaired and replaced. The exterior was repainted and new lettering applied.



Above: Ted removing old insulation. Above Right: Spruce Crest Welding assisting.

WATERLOO CENTRAL RAILWAY

COACH 1437 MIDWAY

Midway has had extensive restoration both outside and inside.

One major project was to remove the large drop down windows (not original) and replace them with newly made original style windows as all windows were replaced with new oak ones made as per original. Outside sheeting around windows replaced and rivets installed to match original design. Sheet metal that was rusted was replaced along with new insulation.

Inside the coach was stripped back to the base along with ceiling panels removed. New insulation and sheeting installed to resemble the original. Lights polished, wiring replaced. Electric heating installed. Seating frames stripped back to metal and repainted.

New sound system installed to be compatible with all other coaches. Seats refurbished and new carpet installed. Also a new efficient toilet was installed. The car is now looking fabulous. Just before the start of the Christmas trains Murdoch Mysteries used the car for interior filming for an upcoming program. The team spearheaded by Brian, Brad, Glen and Grant and Ted have put in 100's of hours on the restoration. Grant our resident painter did a great job of painting.



New interior



Above Right: Murdoch Mysteries recent shoot, S17 E13 "Train to Nowhere" available to watch on YouTube.



In Memory of Robert Glenn Thomson

Family matters. This month we lost one of our own. Robert Glenn Thomson, Glenn to us, was a valued volunteer, a key member of our steam team and just a peach of a guy. Glenn's quick wit, easy smile and cheerful demeanour will be missed around our shop. Glenn's laid back nature and easy going personality allowed him to build strong bonds with our student volunteers, passing on skills and knowledge that will endure for years to come. People come and people go, but there was only one Glenn. He will be missed but never forgotten. Rest well Glenn.



WATERLOO CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOCOMOTIVE 1238 UPDATE

WCR is very excited that we were able to raise the \$150,000.00 by December 31st as a down payment to secure the locomotive.

Our next goal is to raise \$300,000.00 required for the final payment. We have entered into an agreement that we can do this over the next few years. Transportation cost will also have to be funded. We look forward to having continued support to achieve this goal. WCR hopes to move the locomotive to St. Jacobs Maintenance facility during 2024.



CHRISTMAS TRAINS 2023



A LETTER FROM BUDDY HEAD ELF IN CHARGE OF CHRISTMAS:

It may not seem like Christmas in April with spring approaching but that is actually when planning for the Christmas trains starts. Each year WCR runs a very large Christmas event and it is a major part of our revenue for the year. This years Christmas event was broken down into two different experiences: Santa's Countryside Ride, a fun daytime train ride with Santa; and Santa's Christmas Caboose, a high energy Christmas show at night staffed by professional actors. This year the show was very well received with WCR moving over 25,000 passengers.

To deliver such a large undertaking, a Christmas team was put together with biweekly organizational meetings. Team members included Russ Deacon (Team Lead), Bob Fallowfield (GM), Paul Cordingley (Volunteer Coordinator), June Menhennet (Decorations), Stephen Eadie (Audio/Lighting), Rachel Keller (Theme/Giveaways), and Anna Schnarr (Ticketing).

This year we ran 120 Christmas trains with most evenings requiring 11 volunteers and 22 actors. The train grew in size with an additional coach added. The outside of the train had over 17,000 lights plus another 8000 when you add in the Market Station and Restoration Facility.

The inside of each car is individually themed and I encourage everyone to check out the Video of Barbie walking through this years train at <https://youtu.be/YqdH802An5s>.

I would like to thank the planning team, and all of our volunteers for their help and support to make this years event the most successful event WCR has ever hosted. Countless hours go into getting everything ready and most do not realize the magnitude of work that happens behind the scenes for the show to run so smoothly. It is very rewarding in the end to know how much Christmas joy and memories we have spread out to so many families. Merry Christmas