

Freeman Station Dispatch

July 10, 2020

At Freeman Station, we are coping like many organizations, by remaining closed, while preparing to reopen when it is deemed safe to do so for our volunteers and visitors.

During this period Friends of Freeman Station has undertaken an organization restructuring to provide more efficient operation, a succession plan, well defined jobs, and committees, and better coverage of all the tasks involved in running the station. This will facilitate recruiting of volunteers and make the station an even more enjoyable place to spend time. As a result, we have several openings on the Board of Directors, and for several volunteer positions. Our Personnel

Director, Al Norton is seeking volunteers for these positions. You can reach Al by email at acnorton@cogeco.ca.

There have been a few changes on the Board. David Vollick is appointed Vice President, Al Norton becomes our Personnel Director, and John Mellow continues as Restoration and Artifacts Director. We welcome Ed Keenleyside as a Director, responsible for Education Programmes. Brian Aasgaard has resigned to pursue other interests. Brian was an early member of FOFS and has made many great contributions to the restoration of the station over the past 10 years. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

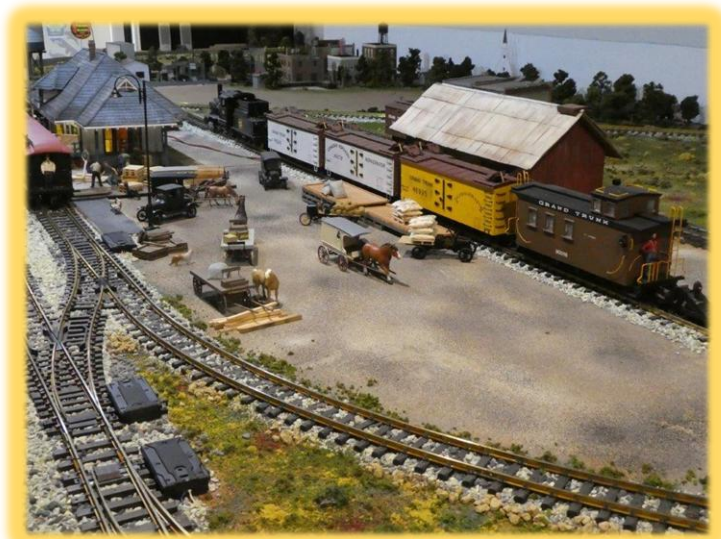
During this shutdown period, Friends of Freeman Station has had the opportunity to look at the station restoration from a fresh viewpoint. We have made the decision to continue restoration of the main level to replicate, as accurately as possible, a Grand Trunk Railway/CN small town station from the period from 1919 to 1956. This level of authenticity will

enhance the experience for our visitors who will be able to step back in time as they enter the doors of the station and experience the technology of that era.

The basement houses our large G-scale model railway and diorama depicting Burlington in 1925. The large scale allows for terrific detail in the scenes. This ongoing development just gets better and better, with more to be seen on every visit. Future plans include interactive video presentations of life in Burlington in the early years of the 20th Century.

We aren't ready to reopen yet, but we will let you know as soon as Government Guidelines will allow us to do so, and once we have the necessary safety precautions in place.

As with many enterprises, financing is an added burden under the pandemic. As we are not open, donations have dropped off dramatically. We thank our loyal supporters for their contributions, but we really need additional funds to keep going. Friends of Freeman Station relies on membership fees, visitor donations, public donations, gift shop sales, and waiting room rentals to cover operating costs. We will shortly be conducting a fundraising campaign based on a



matching of funds. We will be providing more details about this campaign shortly, and hope you will find it something you'd like to consider donating to.



We hope soon to be able to open the waiting room to members for private group functions. If you have an upcoming event, for which you think the station might be suitable, please contact us at info@freemanstation.com,

or call me at 905-628-1209, or 289-527-6478.

Once we can reopen, the station will be holding special events, and presentations led by excellent speakers on a variety of topics of interest.

And we will have our souvenir and gift kiosk ready in the

Baggage Room when we are open again.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Freeman Station looks forward to welcoming you back soon.

We hope you and your family are staying safe and well.

Best wishes

Ron Danielsen
President
Friends of Freeman Station



Outdoor Photo credit Don Tweedle and Bob Chambers