

Hatchie makes final run ending 37-year career

By HENRY BURY
Staff Reporter

A third generation of Belleville family railroad engineers ended Saturday when Harry Taylor pulled in his Via train to Toronto's Union Station.

Taylor, known to fellow employees as Hatchie, completed almost 37 years of service with Canadian National Railway with his Toronto stop. For all but seven of those years, he was an engineer.

Taylor spent Saturday, the first day of his early retirement, in his 297 Bleecker Ave. home, greeted by family and friends.

Taylor's father, Harry, (also known as Hatchie), was an engineer with the Grand Trunk Railroad and CNR from 1914 to 1952.

And Taylor's grandfather, Joe, was also an engineer from 1880 to 1920 with the Bay of Quinte, the Grand Trunk Railroad and the Point Anne Leighy railroad.

Taylor started in the railroad business in 1945 as fireman and engineer in the steam locomotive era. In 1951, he became an engineer, handling both freight and passenger trains, mainly

from Toronto to Brockville and later, to Montreal. In the last four years, he had the Kingston to Toronto run on the Via dayliner.

"I've run every type of equipment that the CN has, from the lowest steam engine to the turbo," the 58-year-old Taylor said.

"I'm going to miss the men I worked with over all those years. Technology has changed over the years and I don't think I'm going to miss that.

It's a whole new ballgame now," he said.

Taylor said he plans on spending a lot of his retirement years in the family cottage north of Bancroft, hunting and fishing.

Taylor's son spent four summers working with the railway earning enough money to pay for university. He's a teacher now, rather than deciding to follow in his father's footsteps.

Taylor's nephew is with the

railroad, currently being employed as an engine service breakman.

And how did Taylor mark his final train run Saturday?

"My grandson, Casey, rode in the (train) cab with me from Belleville to Toronto," he answered.

Taylor and his grandson

boarded the train back to Belleville.

Taylor left the driving to someone else. He's a passenger now.

Taylor, Harry