

CREDIT VALLEY RAILWAY

Ready to roll in 1976

by Gordon Murray

The Credit Valley Railway will live again, thanks to the efforts of the Ontario Rail Association.

Beginning in 1976 the Rail Association will be running weekend excursion trips from Georgetown to Cheltenham and both the locomotives and coaches used on the seven mile railway will be of the vintage variety.

The Ontario Rail Association came into existence in the spring of 1971 and since that time its members have rebuilt and refurbished three locomotives and over a dozen passenger cars. There are around 400 members of the Rail Association and according to Don Wilson, one of the directors, they come from all walks of life.

The Rail Association got off the ground in 1971 when they purchased a steam locomotive, formerly belonging to Canadian Pacific Railway, from Neil McNish, a Toronto lawyer, who was storing the locomotive in a shed in Bolton.

The steam locomotive, No. 136, was built in 1883, and ran both in New Brunswick and Ontario before its retirement in 1960. This locomotive was taken to Milton where Rail Association members began working on it at Sherwood Hume's.

Next the Rail Association acquired another locomotive which was almost completely rebuilt and even steamed up. This locomotive, number 1057, had also ended its career in 1960.

From there the Association began acquiring passenger cars and bought them from both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific. They also bought a business car, (complete with bedrooms) Temagami, from Ontario Northland, and have fixed up this stately old car to vintage condition. Most of the other cars have also been refurbished to look as they did in the early 1900's.

With the trains all rebuilt and ready to go the Rail Association began to run excursion trips around Ontario and also look for a permanent home for their trains. They received permission to use seven miles of unused track between Georgetown and Cheltenham. They will run trains on the weekends on that line.

All of the cars to be used on the Credit Valley Railway are named after spots along the line, like Georgetown, Terra Cotta, and Glen Williams. The name Credit Valley Railway was chosen because of the location of the tracks and as a means of preserving the name of an old rail firm which was eventually absorbed by Canadian Pacific.



NOS. 136 demonstration steam loco to many of the CBC p. 136 was s there and the televis

