

Save station movement continues

Last Monday night Stirling council decided to ask CN to hold the village's train station for one year while Stirling Historical Society collects more funds.

Councillors said they do not want to purchase the building for the society until they demonstrate they are in an 'adequate financial state', reported Historical Society Chairperson Kathy Findlay at a meeting last Thursday night. She said they have given the society until April 30, 1986 to prove themselves.

However Findlay said that following the council meeting, an 'interesting turn of events' ensued. Stirling Business Association President Alan Coxwell said the association will put a call through to CN this week to see if they will sell the old station to them instead.

Findlay said CN may be 'fed up' with granting extensions on saving the station from demolition and may be interested in selling to the business association.

'At the council meeting, (Councillor) McIntosh was sceptical that people would be interested in using it (the station) as a tourist information booth,' said Findlay.

She added that Councillor McIntosh also felt senior citizens would not need another place to go because they already have somewhere to go that is free.

'I am really relieved that the business association is interested,' said Findlay.

At the special meeting last Thursday, the Historical Society executive continued to discuss fundraising plans, including a street dance proposed by the business association. They also made plans to investigate the insurance needed if they are left in charge of the train station, and discussed the possibility of joining the Ontario Historical Society.

The Historical Society is now moving towards legal incorporation, and once that has been accomplished, they will open a bank

account and donations will be accepted. Interested people can now purchase memberships at \$4 each.

Plans for the historical walking tour of Stirling this fall also continue.

Some of the other fundraising ideas discussed were raffles, corn roasts and more yard sales.

Findlay said it has been estimated that the building could be worth \$100,000 once renovated, at an

approximate cost of \$50,000.

'Council thinks you need all \$50,000 before you can get started,' she said.

The next full monthly meeting of the Stirling Historical Society will be held September 25, 7:30 p.m., at the Legion. A member from a nearby historical society will be invited to the meeting to give a speech and help with questions about their society.

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By 10:30 Monday morning, July 1st, a large crowd had gathered at the old railway station in Stirling. They had come to help with the flea market, refreshment booth and various programmes organized by the Stirling Historical Society. The boards were off the windows of the old station, the walls and floors were scrubbed and a breath of life filled the station once again after many years of neglect. This was the first major public effort by the society in their fund raising efforts to save the station from the wrecker's ball and by all appearances it was a grand success.

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CN Station on the track

If the Stirling Historical Society and the Village of Stirling can dot the 'I's' and cross the 'T's' on a lease contract there will be nothing standing in the way of the organization's plans to restore the historic building.

On September 7 the Stirling Historical Society gained legal corporate status through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society.

With that key legal hurdle behind them, the group became able to negotiate a formal contract with the Village, which has agreed to purchase the old building from Canadian National Railways and lease the site if an agreement can be made.

'I'm sure we are all looking forward to settling this time consuming issue,' said Historical Society Representative

Brian Stacey in a letter to Stirling council.

A proposal has been drawn up, reports society spokesperson Cathie Findlay, and all that remains is the ironing out of details. A meeting is expected to take place in the next few days at which the Village Clerk, Murray Rodgers, representatives of the Historical Society and their lawyers will make the deal final.

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