



Large crowd welcomes commuter train return

By Chris Shanahan
CLAREMONT—Hamlet residents joined in an exuberant celebration, Sunday, to officially mark the return of commuter train service here.

The crowd of over a hundred broke into cheers as the sleek VIA dayliner rolled into Claremont station slightly behind schedule, breaking through a huge paper banner that read "Here Comes The Train."

The 160-kilometre Toronto-Peterborough-Havelock line, which includes stops at Claremont, Dagmar and Myrtle in Durham Region, began regular service on Monday.

It was discontinued by the then Liberal government back on Sept. 6, 1982, as part of a \$200-million cutback in federal subsidies to VIA Rail Canada Inc.

Sunday's festivities were organized by Andrea Graham with participation from members of Claremont Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Claremont Winter Carnival queen Karen Carson, and Peggy Turner and Rhoda Almack, who arrived dressed in period costume aboard horse and buggy. Music was provided by the Botsford Street Ramblers band from Newmarket.

An elaborate imitation train hold-up was planned during the Claremont stop but was

cancelled due to technical difficulties, according to Mrs. Graham. However, a masked man did fire a loud starter's pistol near the head of a startled Ontario riding M.P. Scott Fennell.

A group of 90 Claremont residents took advantage of Sunday's free promotional VIA Rail train ride. The passengers and accompanying dignitaries disembarked at Claremont and joined the other assembled townsfolk for a brief opening ceremony.

"The most important thing is to make sure that we all use the train," Mr. Fennell told the crowd. "That way it (the commuter service) will be approved and it will still stay."

The M.P. credited Transportation Minister Don Mazankowski with doing the leg work required to reinstate the Toronto-Havelock line on a two-year, trial basis.

Pickering Mayor Jack Anderson said he feels the train will "be a great boon to residents of Claremont" and to the whole of north Pickering.

Norah Stoner, Pickering's regional councillor for Ward 3, called the train's return part of an on-going process of revitalization in the hamlet. "You can see it on the street and you can

see it here," she said at the station ceremony. Ray Borden, vice-president of VIA Ontario, also took part.

Mrs. Graham, who was recently named to a four-person committee that'll study the best uses for the federally-owned airport property, agreed the dayliner's revival is important to Claremont's future.

"It's a positive step that will help the revitalization and redevelopment of the whole area," the Brock Road resident told The Tribune.

But she feels it's unrealistic to expect the VIA train to catch on with passengers immediately, believing instead that it'll "take time to get back on track."

The train departs Havelock at 5:05 a.m. Monday to Friday and arrives at Toronto's Union Station at 8:30 a.m. Morning stops are made at Myrtle, 7:17 a.m.; Dagmar, 7:25 a.m.; and Clarmont, 7:35 a.m.

The return trip leaves Toronto at 5:30 p.m. and reaches Claremont at 6:19 p.m.; Dagmar at 6:29 p.m.; and Myrtle at 6:54 p.m.

For other times consult the VIA Rail timetable.

Claremont passengers will pay \$5 one-way and \$8 round-trip to Toronto.

"Use the train!" riding M.P. urges

Ontario riding Member of Parliament Scott Fennell, (left), and Ray Borden, vice-president of VIA Ontario, participated in Sunday's promotional train stop at Claremont station. Mr. Fennell urged residents to use the reinstated commu-

ter service in order to ensure its permanent return. The Progressive Conservative government has revived the Havelock-Toronto passenger line on a trial basis.

—Chris Shanahan



It's back on track

The VIA Rail dayliner made its long-awaited return to Claremont in style. Townsfolk came out in large numbers Sunday for a celebration that featured an instrumental band and an ill-fated train hold-up scheme. Festivities were organized by Andrea Graham, who termed the event "a huge success." Regular commuter service began on Monday.

—Chris Shanahan

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 Motorcade tour of Strawberry Fields with breakfast and lunch*, Celebrity Tennis in Ballantrae, Festival Car Rally*, United Church Fun Fair and Good Brothers Concert*

MONDAY, JUNE 24
 Schools Concert and Lunch in the Park

TUESDAY, JUNE 25
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26
 Lions' Beef and Berries BBQ, Town Band Concert

THURSDAY, JUNE 27
 Musselman's Lake Crazy Olympics and Bike Race*

FRIDAY, JUNE 28
 Buttermakers Ball Tournament, NHL All Star Game, "Sports Personality" Award, Street Dance with Dick Smith and the Syncona Steel Band

SATURDAY, JUNE 29
In Stouffville: Strawberry Threads Craft Sale, Dunk Tank, Robbie Soccer Tournament, Buttermakers Ball continues with Buttermakers Dance in the evening.
In Ballantrae: Country Fair, Junior Tennis Tournament, Baby Contest*, Petting Farm and Wagon Rides
 Transportation between the two locations compliments of CableTech

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
 (Church Service), Baseball finals, Senior Tennis Tournament in Ballantrae, and McNeil Strawberry Social

MONDAY, JULY 1
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