



Spring 2013

Important Highlights:

- **Society Incorporated**
- **New logo unveiled**
- **Society debuts at Home and Garden Show**
- **Project updates**

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The Silver Express

We are official!

On Wednesday, February 6th the society Board of Directors met at the Silver Mountain Station to ratify our proposed constitution. The vote was unanimous among the assembled members and it was then passed along to the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) for their approval. Copies of the constitution will be available electronically and in print prior to the next society general meeting.

After receiving our ratified constitution, the Ontario Historical Society met on Saturday, February 23rd to incorporate our organization. With all of our paperwork in place, this process was a mere formality; OHS President Rob Leverty immediately called Shelley to pass on the good news. On Thursday, February 28th, representatives from OHS met with the Ontario Ministry of Government Services and were given our corporate number. All of

this means that we are a real and true non-profit organization in the eyes of the Province of Ontario. The future looks bright!

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Our new logo

On March 21st the new society logo made its debut

The logo features a train above the society name. Many thanks go out to the ladies at the Creative Crew for their time and efforts in putting this together.

When deciding on the inspiration for the logo, we had a lot of things to chose from. However, we finally settled on using something from the railway, since the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western -Pee Dee- Railway was such a huge part of the history of the Silver Mountain area. The image depicted on the logo

comes from one of the most iconic photographs of the railway. This particular picture shows engine #108 of the Canadian Northern Railway, a 2-6-0 mogul, presumably at Mackies Siding in 1918.

The creation of a logo was one of our big goals since our founding. Hopefully it will give the society a unique identity and allows us to better

promote our goals. It will certainly go a long way to helps us attract new members.





Next society
General
Meeting:
Fall 2013



President's Report

It has been a very busy and exciting few months for the society since our incorporation meeting in December. It is amazing to be a part of a new organization and watch it grow.

As mentioned on the front page, our most exciting piece of news has been the incorporation of the our organization under the auspices of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS). Many thanks go out to President Rob Leverty and all the wonderful people at OHS for their assistance in making this all possible. We look forward to working with OHS to preserve history in our area.

The board of directors has met several times since December to move the society forward. Discussions have centred around mem-

Our first public splash!

On April 5 to 7th, the society made its first big public splash at the 15th Annual Thunder Bay Home and Garden Show. This three-day event attracts tens of thousands of visitors and was an excellent occasion to showcase our organization.

Our presence at the show was made possible through the efforts of society Co-President Shelley Simon. Shelley had rented a booth for the Silver Mountain Station and graciously offered to allow the society to share the space. We had a bit of a mad rush the week before to get materials ordered for this event with our new logo, such as a banner, bro-

bership and advertising, fundraising and preservation projects. Some of our ongoing projects are highlighted on the next page of this newsletter. We would also like to welcome Elle Andra-Warner to the board, as an appointed representative from the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society.

Recruiting new members for the society is currently a high priority goal. Events such as the Home and Garden Show have gone a long way to increasing our expo-

sure. Facebook and Twitter have certainly assisted in this objective.

The society website is undergoing an extensive overhaul and should prove to be a more useful resource for members and visitors a like.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please feel free to contact any member of the current board. We are looking forward to what should be a great summer.

Shelley & Dave

Board of Directors

Shelley Simon, Co-President

Dave Battistel, Co-President

Sherry Hickin, Treasurer

Daryl Cano, Secretary

Kyle Duckworth, Director

Leonard Kantola, Director

Elle Andra-Warner, TBMHS rep

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chures and business cards. Thanks to a few prayers and expedited service, everything worked out great.

There was a steady stream of traffic by our location all three days. We quickly went through our supply of brochures and had to fall back on using business cards!

Kudos to Shelley for manning the booth the entire weekend. She was joined on the Saturday by fellow Co-President Dave Battistel and on the Sunday by Director Kyle Duckworth.

The show provided some great exposure for us and hopefully it will lead to more public awareness

of our organization. We are looking forward to the next public event and new opportunities to promote the society. Stay tuned for the latest news.



Society banner at the Silver Mountain Station booth.

Project Update: North-Gunflint Lakes Historic Corridor

Since our inception, the society has had a special focus on the Boundary Waters between North and Gunflint Lakes.

This area, known to the society as the North-Gunflint Lakes Historic Corridor, contains many historic sites. These locations date from Archaic-period Natives, fur trade era voyagers and 19th/20th century railway, logging and mining ven-

tures. Protection and preservation of these unique sites is of utmost importance to the society.

For the past year, lobbying has gone on with the local provincial politicians, as well as with various government ministries. Some progress has been made, but matters such as this do take time and it will be a while before tangible results are seen.

We will continue to provide information as it becomes available in this important project. Please visit our blog for the latest news and updates.



Rock oven at Leeblain.



Project Update: Highway Dedication

The society is attempting to dedicate a local highway in honour of local pioneer Dorothea Mitchell, the “Lady Lumberjack.”

The process of dedicating Highway 593 (Devon Road) requires that approval must be received from the local township road boards before an application can be made to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO). The letters are being processed and awaiting

response from the local boards.

The cost will depend on the MTO’s determination for non-profit organizations. Once approved by the local road boards and the MTO, we will proceed with the dedication.

Dorothea Mitchell was a vital part of the history of Silver Mountain and the surrounding area. She ran a sawmill, lumberyard and was postmistress of Silver Mountain

Station. She was the first unmarried women in Ontario to be granted a homestead, right here in Silver Mountain. She was a significant part of our history, and her imprint in Silver Mountain deserves our appreciation.



Similar dedication sign for Terry Fox.

Upcoming events: Horseback Ride/History Day

The next upcoming society event will take place on July 6 & 7. A horseback ride along area trails (including the Pee Dee Railway grade), will take place starting at the Silver Mountain Station.

The cost of the ride is \$30, and in addition each rider will be required to gather pledges. The entry fee includes a \$15 meal voucher for the station.

Please check our website and Facebook page for exact times and details.

In August, the Station will play host to the 2nd Annual History Day, this time sponsored by the society.

Building on the success of the first event, we’re planning for an expansion in this year’s festivities. It is an excellent opportunity for

people to learn about and celebrate the history of the area with local historians and writers.

Stay tuned for more details coming soon.



Dave Battistel speaking at History Day 2012.

Stay up-to-date with the society blog. Visit it at silvermountainhs.com





SILVER MOUNTAIN AND AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Preserving the history of Silver Mountain and beyond.

The Silver Mountain and Area Historical Society (SMHS) was founded in October 2012. We are a non-profit organization committed to preserving the history of the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway (PAD&W), the Silver Mountain Station and the surrounding area.

Our mandate includes the promotion of the railway, as well as the preservation of the remaining physical traces of the line and structures. We are also interested in the cultural and economic history of the area, such as settlements, mining and logging. Our geographic area stretches from the former railway stop at Sellers west to the US-Canada border at Gunflint Lake.

The SMHS is governed by an elected board of directors and is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society (OHS). We are headquartered out of the historic Silver Mountain Station, which was built in 1907 and is the last remaining station on the PAD&W line.

Membership

The Silver Mountain and Area Historical Society welcomes any and all new members.

Membership benefits:

- Invitation to special events and gatherings
- Regular newsletters
- Volunteer opportunities
- Voting privileges at the Society's Annual General Meeting



For more information on how to join us, please visit our website or email us at info@silvermountainhs.ca



Silver Mountain HS



Silvermtnhs



silvermountainhs.com