

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BROCKVILLE

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF MAYOR JASON BAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor
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Re: Kind Neighbourly Gesture of a Train/Locomotive Bell

“The Town of Smiths Falls and City of Brockville share a deep and rich history of railroading. The **donation of an authentic locomotive bell from the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario’s** tremendous collection of artifacts here in Smiths Falls demonstrates the strength of our railroading bond”

~Mayor Shawn Pankow, Smiths Falls

“The Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario (RMEO) is happy to be able to assist the City of Brockville with a replacement locomotive engine bell. The railway history of our communities has been interconnected without pause since the mid 1850’s and I am certain this engine bell made many trips into Brockville”

~Tony Humphrey, President of RMEO

History of the Bell – the bell once adorned an early D 10 series locomotive built by the Kingston Locomotive Works. The engine was taken out of service and dismantled in 1952 and the engine bell was given to a friend of the Master Mechanic from Montreal who placed it at his cottage near Hudson, Quebec. After his passing, his son donated it to a private school in Hamilton where it was used to call students for classes until they expanded in the early part of this century. It eventually made its way to Smiths Falls to become a valued cultural artifact in the RMEO collection.

RMEO Mandate - The Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario will encourage the preservation of railway heritage in our region. The museum will interpret the industry’s impact on the lives of our community through well-planned public programming, engaging exhibitions and our collection of artifacts.

“The City of Brockville expresses its sincere thank you to Mayor Pankow and the Town of Smiths Falls as well as the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario for the loan of this amazing railroading artifact. This gesture helps to turn a frustrating act of petty theft to an opportunity to be reminded how the railroad can both literally and socially connect our communities.”

~ Mayor Jason Baker, City of Brockville