

THE LINDSAY POST

Caboose targeted again

KAWARTHA LAKES – April 9, 2010

Security cameras will be installed next week around the train display at Memorial Park - a week after vandals broke into the caboose for the third time in less than a year.

Lindsay & District Model Railroaders president Russ Moore said he hoped the cameras would act as a future deterrent, or at least capture images of the culprits to make it easier to identify them.

Lighting was installed in August 2009, but that did not stop someone from breaking into the caboose over Spring break.

Moore said the "slugs" broke windows, tore a storm door from its hinges, ripped screens on several windows and broke electrical plug receptacle plates. He said they left cigarette butts and an empty alcohol bottle in their wake. He estimated the damage at more than \$200 in materials and labour and thanked Lindsay Glass for again donating replacement glass.

He described his mood as one of "total frustration. They're destroying their own history. It doesn't belong to the Lindsay & District Model Railroaders. It doesn't belong to the City of Kawartha Lakes. It belongs to everybody."

Moore said municipal police have been notified. Anyone with any info is asked to call them at 324-5252 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS.

"Should any good citizen of our fair city observe any suspicious activity in or around the train display at Memorial Park, please contact the Kawartha Lakes police immediately," the former policeman said.

It is the first time in 2010 the caboose has been vandalized but it was hit twice in August, 2009.

The caboose, which replaces one destroyed by fire in May of 2008, was moved to the park before the July 21, 2009 relocation of the Stelco 40 locomotive from Old Mill Park.

The railroaders are the caretakers of the display, spearheading efforts to turn it into Lindsay's railway heritage centre.

That has included an as-yet-unsuccessful attempt to have the former Omemee train station donated to the centre.

LISA GERVAIS, LINDSAY POST REPORTER