

THE LINDSAY POST

Group dismayed by train station decision

KAWARTHA LAKES – April 30, 2010

The Lindsay and District Model Railroaders say the Trillium Lakelands District School Board decision to retain the Omemee train station is "regrettable."

The board has written railroaders' president Russ Moore to officially endorse its Feb. 9 decision, following Moore's delegation to the Mar. 23 school board meeting seeking reconsideration.

TLDSB chairperson Valerie Smith, in a letter to Moore, said the committee of the whole discussed his delegation at its Apr. 13 committee of the whole meeting. She said talks included information Moore forwarded about an additional claim of ownership by an Omemee resident. "Unfortunately, we do not have any record of such a claim and have not received any direct information that has to do with this claim," Smith said.

"At this time we are not in favour of removing the train station from the community of Omemee to Lindsay. Trustees have decided to uphold their original decision and keep the Omemee Train Station on the Lady Eaton Public School property."

Moore said he is not happy with the outcome.

"It is truly regrettable that the board has chosen to uphold their original decision and retain possession of the train station, disguised in the thought of, 'not being in favour of removing the train station from the community of Omemee to Lindsay'.

"To the best of our knowledge neither the Trillium Lakelands District School Board nor anyone within the community of Omemee have any plan whatsoever to restore this valuable piece of history for the benefit of the local community, nor the larger community of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

"One would have thought that a public body which espouses community values and in turn is entrusted to teach those values to our youngsters would have reached a far different conclusion.

"To retain possession of this piece of history, converted to a steel utility shed, hidden away in the corner of a school yard, where it is inaccessible to the general public the majority of the time and to then further compound that error by leaving the station in its current attire, thereby rendering it unrecognizable, is truly a very short sighted and selfish one to say the least," Moore said.

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