
Board asked to reconsider station decision

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Concerned that a significant piece of railway history has been "turned into a utility shed," the Lindsay and District Model Railroaders will ask the Trillium Lakelands District School Board to reconsider a decision to keep the former Omemee train station at Lady Easton School in Omemee.

Railroaders' president Russ Moore said he had been granted school board permission to inspect the station on last Tuesday along with City of Kawartha Lakes' manager of parks, recreation and culture, Craig Shanks.

Moore said if the station is in restorable shape, the railroaders will ask the board to revisit their decision.

He said that a number of years ago, the board of the day offered to donate the locally significant and historic Omemee train station to the train and railway artifact display in Lindsay which was contemplated at that time.

That endeavour did not proceed and the Omemee train station still remains on the school property. However, with the City of Kawartha Lakes and the railroaders having taken up the challenge and a railway heritage display initiated at Memorial Park in Lindsay, the railroaders wrote the school board in late January asking it to make the donation again. However, the board turned down that request at its Feb. 9 meeting.

In a letter to Moore, dated, Feb. 16, they wrote: "While trustees understand your enthusiasm for requesting the donation of the Omemee train station, we have decided that the building will remain on Trillium Lakelands District School Board property at Lady Eaton Public School in Omemee.

"The school board has, in recent years, invested approximately \$10,000 in maintenance and repairs to the building making it available for use by the school. We also believe that the proximity of the school and building to the TransCanada Trail in Omemee makes the current location of the building a significant factor."

But, Moore is not convinced.

He said he would be meeting with city councillors and MPP Rick Johnson this week in hopes of advancing lobbying efforts.

"They've turned a piece of history into a steel clad shed. That doesn't sit right."

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