

AUGUST 2024

SUMMER RESTORATION UPDATE



New backsheet



Old backsheet

#9 FIREBOX RESTORATION

The firebox restoration is progressing well. All the inner sheets, the crown sheet, and the back sheet have been removed. Robert Franzen of Steam Services of America arranged for the Age of Steam Roundhouse in Ohio to fabricate and flange a new back sheet. Once all the old stays were removed, the holes had to be drilled and reamed to accept the new ones. There are over 700 stay bolts! This has all been done by our volunteers.

Steam Services of America has had new flexible stays forged and is also supplying the caps. We arranged for fixed stay material to be supplied by Boilersmith of Seaforth, Ontario. These are being fabricated in-house. The next step is to produce drawings for the new inner side sheets and the crown sheet. The holes for the stays will be cut by water jet. Chris DeVos of Ayr Welding has been of great assistance and will be producing the sheets for us shortly, as well as welding them and the back sheet in place. We can then proceed with having them weld in the stays.

There remains a lot of work ahead, but we are very pleased with the progress and the quality of work our volunteers have done so far. Eugene Martin of Spruce Crest Welding and his team were very helpful in cutting out the old inner sheets for removal by our volunteers. Bill Slack, owner of a local machine shop, has also been very helpful. We remain extremely thankful for all the financial support we have received from people all over the world. Thank you!

FORMER CPR NO. 1238

The removal of all the stay bolts, some 988, the inner sheets, last month, Irvon Weber, Andrew Webb, and Richard Moser spent a week in Winnipeg at the Prairie Dog Central, where steam locomotive 1238 is stored indoors. The locomotive was pulled into their shop so they could inspect, lubricate, and prepare it to be moved. The team went through all the stored parts and loaded a 40 ft. container for shipping back to St. Jacobs. This will be coming by road in the next few weeks. A definite moving date for the locomotive has yet to be decided.



Forged flexible stays



Stay sleeves

WATERLOO CENTRAL RAILWAY

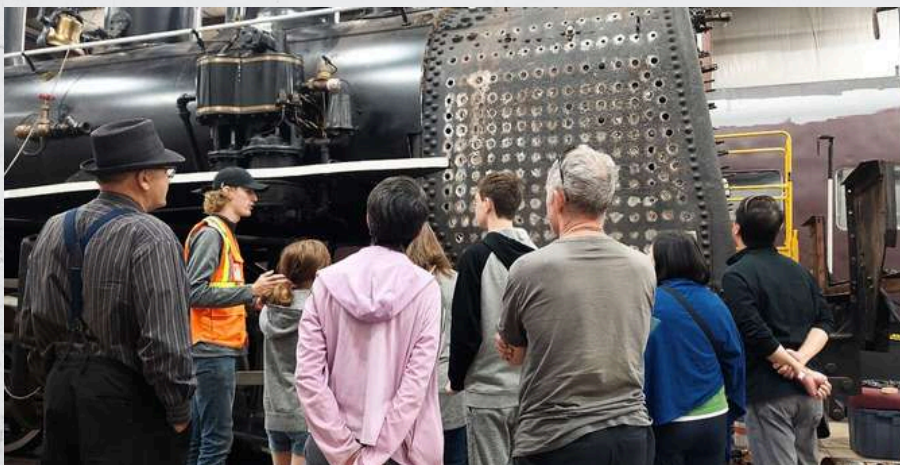


Irvon, seen above and Andrew (seen right) at Prairie Dog Central Railway this June, where they organized parts for #1238, they moved the locomotive out of storage and into the shop in order to get underneath the engine in the pit to inspect and lubricate the axles and bearings. Seen above, #1238 it is outside along with Steam Locomotive No. 3.



YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

WCR is very fortunate to have a great team of young volunteers who are deeply involved in the restoration of No. 9. They are keen to learn new skills and are putting in many hours to aid in the restoration, as well as working on the passenger trains. They bring a variety of skills; some are primarily interested in the mechanical side of things, while others also wish to learn how to operate and fire the locomotives. One of them, Jacob Cook, was hired as a full-time summer student. Below are Jake's thoughts on why he volunteers and what his future aspirations involve.



Jake explaining the work on the firebox to a group of visitors.



Jake & Andrew drilling staybolt holes

"My interest at WCR lies in the mechanical side of things because I love that type of stuff. I have spent most of my time in the shop working on various projects, including our steam locomotive No. 9, which I hope to one day operate along with No. 1238. It has presented many opportunities for someone my age, 18, to learn a half-billion things from many experienced volunteers and has helped me in choosing my future career path in plumbing. This fall, I will be going to Conestoga College to take industrial plumbing." – Jacob Cook
