

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**TORONTO RAILWAY MUSEUM (TRM) LAUNCHES VIRTUAL LECTURE  
SERIES WITH “ROYAL TRAIN TOURS OF CANADA”  
ON APRIL 21, IN HONOUR OF THE QEII’S 95<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Downtown Toronto Attractions Come Together to Support TRM  
As It Brings History into the Homes of All Canadians To Enjoy

**APRIL 8, 2021 (TORONTO, ON):** [Toronto Railway Museum](#) (TRM), a non-profit organization supported in part by the City of Toronto and established as the public-facing entity of the [Toronto Railway Historical Association](#) (TRHA), located in the iconic [Roundhouse Park](#) across from the CN Tower, launches its 2021 Virtual Lecture Series part of its “10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Take Two Campaign” on Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30-9 p.m. The TRM is inviting train and Royal enthusiasts from across Canada to celebrate the first installment of the series with a theme, “[Royal Train Tours of Canada](#)” in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The innovative educational experience conducted by Toronto-based, ‘Royal Historian’, [Dr. Carolyn Harris](#), will help raise funds to support the collection, preservation, restoration of Canadian rail artifacts and important historical interpretation.

“I am thrilled to participate in the launch of the 2021 TRM Virtual Lecture Series by sharing my knowledge and research about the history of the Royal family,” says Harris. “I invite people of all ages, to hop on board a journey to the past as we examine tours of Canada from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to today.”

Since the pandemic hit, TRM which employs three full-time staff (and 125 volunteers at its peak pre-covid) has lost 95 per cent of its earned attraction revenue and missed its chance to safely celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year.

“It’s important that we continue to keep our community engaged and connected to our offerings and possibly even attract a new audience,” says Kelly Burwash, TRM manager and curator. “The return of our Virtual Lecture Series with 100 per cent of ticket sale proceeds going back into the TRM will be crucial to sustaining our efforts to obtain our mission.”

The team and committee volunteers at TRM have created an exquisite at-home experience filled with traditional British anthem music, historic Canadian content and for VIP guests, chances to win Royal giveaways from nearby Toronto attractions such as: a night’s stay on [Gold at Fairmont Royal York](#) and a gift basket from [Moët & Chandon](#); two passes to [CN Tower Edgewalk](#); two Admission Tickets to [Ripley’s Aquarium](#); a prize pack valued at \$150 from [Steam Whistle Brewery](#); Canadian Pacific/TRM heritage collectables



from the TRM [gift shop](#); access to a live Q&A with Carolyn Harris and TRM train experts and more!

TRM is committed to telling the stories of the railways, and welcoming conversations of its varied experiences through its lecture series, exhibits and integrated programming with a mission to learn from the past to make the future better.

“My lecture will feature 1901, 1939, 1959 Royal tours to Canada and also discuss how people of diverse backgrounds responded to Royal Train Tours and how attitudes toward the Monarchy changed over time,” says Harris. “For example, in 1939, the Monarchy was positioned as an institution that brought people together, but by 1959 and especially the 1960s, there began to be questions about whether the Monarchy represented a ‘British’ identity that did not reflect a modern Canada, a debate that continues to emerge around royal tours to the present day.”

The TRM looks forward to celebrating Canadian history and sparking some joy in an affordable family-friendly event made available for everyone to safely enjoy in the comfort of their own home.

Tickets are now on sale: **\$25 for VIP with Zoom Link** and **\$10 for General access with YouTube stream** and can be purchased via the TRM website [here](#). Guests are encouraged to ‘dress up’ (adorn their favourite Crowns or fascinators) for the occasion and purchase their choice champagne to cheers to the Queen’s 95<sup>th</sup>! Photos posted to Instagram using **#TRMxRoyalTrains** will also be entered to win additional prizes.

Subscribe to the TRM monthly newsletter [here](#) and follow along on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) to stay-up-to-date on the schedule and next themed-topics in the series.

Interviews with Dr. Carolyn Harris and TRM Spokespersons, as well as high-resolution imagery and vintage video content of Royal Tours are available upon request.

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## CONTACT

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## **ABOUT TORONTO RAILWAY MUSEUM (TRM)**

Located in [Roundhouse Park](#), in the heart of downtown Toronto that shares stories of Toronto's railway history. The museum's exhibits include the original, fully restored and operational 120-foot-long locomotive turntable and a carefully chosen collection of full-size railway equipment. The museum also operates a miniature railway and other outdoor exhibits illustrating Toronto's railway heritage. Exhibits include the original 60,000-gallon water tower, the 650-ton concrete locomotive coaling tower and a collection of historic buildings, including Don Station and Cabin D.

## **ABOUT TORONTO RAILWAY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (TRHA)**

Established in 2001 to work with the City of Toronto to establish a railway museum at the John Street Roundhouse. The TRHA is incorporated and is a Federally registered charity. Its primary purpose is to promote the development of the TRM.

## **ABOUT CAROLYN HARRIS**

Dr. Carolyn Harris is an instructor in history at the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies. She received her Ph.D in European history from Queen's University in 2012. Her writing concerning the history of monarchy in the UK, Europe, and Canada has appeared in numerous publications including the *Globe and Mail*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *Smithsonian Magazine* and the *BBC History Magazine*, and she is the author of 3 books: *Magna Carta and Its Gifts to Canada*, *Queenship and Revolution in Early Modern Europe: Henrietta Maria and Marie Antoinette* and *Raising Royalty: 1000 Years of Royal Parenting*. She is currently co-editing a book series about royal consorts, *English Consorts: Power, Influence, Dynasty*. She lives in Toronto.

