



# 2024-2025 Annual Report



# CHAIR'S WELCOME



Museums in Ontario face new demands for relevance, inclusive representation, and vibrant visitor experiences. Museums must innovate to remain financially and culturally sustainable. The Toronto Railway Museum can say, with pride, that it is responding better than many of its peers. So, hurrah to us.

In the Fall of 2024, I stepped cautiously into the remarkable shoes of Pat Ressa, our departing Chair. We will all miss his calm, steady competence. I hope to do as well.

I want to thank our highly professional and visionary Executive Director, Alex Gates for leading and managing the necessary changes. Thanks also to all the members of the Board for providing guidance and insights. And to the corps of hard-working volunteers who literally keep the wheels on the rails. And finally, to all of the other permanent and summer staff who bring the museum alive. Thanks to you all.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It has been an honour to lead the Toronto Railway Museum this past year. With more than 4.3 million visitors viewing our rolling stock in Roundhouse Park last year, the Toronto Railway Museum one of the most visited cultural institutions in Canada. Stop by any day and you will see families from around the world inspired by our collection. Our success is partly thanks to our ongoing working relationship with the City of Toronto, allowing us to share rail experiences from the John Street Roundhouse National Historic Site. A huge thank you to our board, staff, and volunteers who keep our urban railway museum operating year-round.

# BOARD AND STAFF

## Board of Directors

Ian Kerr-Wilson, Chair  
David Mackie, Vice Chair  
Allan Changoor  
Max Delisle  
Daniel Goodfellow  
Ramana Kovvali  
Russ Milland  
Jocelyn Short  
Karen Sinotte  
Phil Spencer  
Jesse Todres  
Lee Weiss

Sameer Rizvi, CFO

## Staff

Alexander Gates, Executive Director  
Pansy Lai, Operations Manager  
Charlotte Lee, Visitor Services Manager  
Jaclyn Gerberding, YCW-BCH Intern

## 2024 Summer Staff

Giann Chung  
Ian Gillis  
Yoojung Jin  
Emily Koops  
Rachel Mooy  
Daniel Robotham  
Celyn Thomas



*Board and staff during the December 20, 2025 Annual General Meeting.*



# ABOUT THE MUSEUM

## Mission

The Toronto Railway Museum is the repository of the City’s vibrant railway history. Our mission is simple: to connect people to the secret history of rail in Toronto and tell the story of those who propelled the city from a sleepy town into our nation’s economic engine.

## Vision

Our museum will become a space to inform, educate, and inspire. We will connect the story of Toronto’s unparalleled growth to its railway past, present, and future, while providing a fun, memorable, and equitable experience for every guest.

## History

The Toronto Railway Museum was opened by the Toronto Railway Historical Association in 2010. Over the past 15 years the organization has grown into a year-round, professionally staffed organization operating out of the John Street Roundhouse National Historic Site across from the CN Tower.

## Attendance and Reach

Museum attendance grew more than 15% year over year. The growth is attributed to a great turnout for Doors Open Toronto and more visitors returning to downtown Toronto for sports games, conventions, and cultural events.

Reach on March 31, 2025



4,217 Facebook fans



1,929 E-news subscribers



1,011 LinkedIn followers

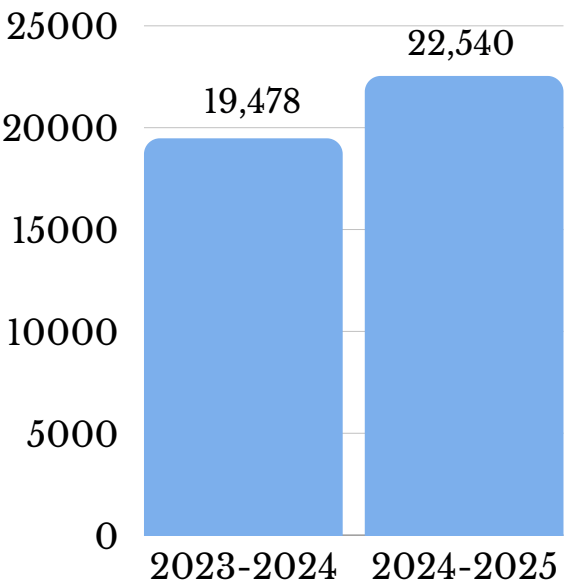


7,876 X followers



4,467 Instagram followers

Museum Attendance



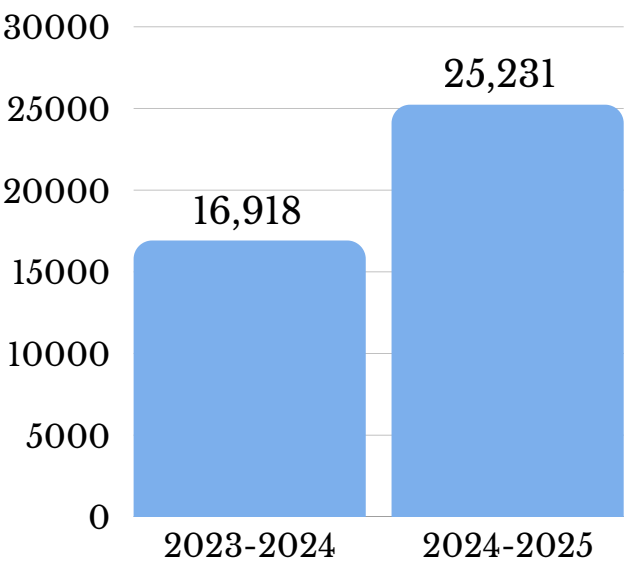


# OPERATIONS

## Mini Train

The mini train operated for 82 days in 2024, traveling more than 1,000 kilometers around Roundhouse Park. Train rides departed Wednesday-Sunday from May through October. Ridership rebounded as tourism in Toronto increased following the pandemic restrictions of the early 2020s. A special thank you to our Museum volunteers who maintain the track and rolling stock to keep our popular attractions running throughout the season.

Mini Train Ridership



Summer student Rachel takes a full train of visitors around Roundhouse Park.



# OPERATIONS

## Guided Tours

Tour guides provided more than 520 tours of the rolling stock in Roundhouse Park in 2024. Our summer staff provided daily “Tales of the Rails” tours as part of admission to the museum. These tours included access to TH&B and *Cape Race*, allowing visitors to go inside the rolling stock on display in the park. A second tour experience was offered by our volunteer Robert. He gave regular locomotive tours of 6213, providing visitors with an in-depth look at our popular steam locomotive.



*Robert giving a tour of 6213.*

## Turntable & Turn Tay-able Rides

Throughout the summer, our volunteers offered rides on the handcar across the turntable. In November, the Museum welcomed Taylor Swift fans from the Rogers Centre onto the “turn tay-able” as part of the concert festivities in Roundhouse Park. Guests enjoyed riding on the turntable while it rotated to Taylor’s most popular tunes playing next door at Steam Whistle.



*Visitors on the turn tay-able in November (left), Volunteer Michael with a VIP guest (right)*



# RETAIL

## Highlighting Local Artists

The TRM Shop at Don Station is proud to carry products by local artists including Wendy Tancock, Joseph Zhuang, Raymond Besinger, GoTomago, and Lawrence Bernstein.



*Joseph Zhuang promoting his work. (right)*



## Don Station Renovation

New shelving was installed in the TRM Shop at Don Station in March 2025. The new layout was designed by Regina Sheung and fabricated by Crispe Design & Construction. The contemporary design protects the heritage elements of the 1896 train station while maximizing floor space for customers.

*Wendy Tancock with her TRM t-shirt design. (left)*



*New shelves were designed around the heritage features of Don Station. (below and left)*





# RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE

## Rolling Stock

CN Van 79144 and locomotive 4803 were the focus of the restoration crew in 2024. New security doors were added and a fresh coat of paint was added to the inside and outside of CN Van. 4803 was brought inside in November and rust removal and paint began.



*(left) Volunteers move CN Van in October 2024.*

*(right) Stewart repairs a switch in January 2025.*

## Track Maintenance

Over the winter two switches from Don Station were brought inside to be repaired. The switches were reinstalled in the spring, allowing for the mini train to use both sets of tracks, increasing the operational capacity for future seasons.



# COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

In February the gallery was closed for a week of cleaning and reorganizing. Additional floor space was freed up allowing more room for families with strollers to enjoy the kids' area. During this time the gallery was cleaned and displays refreshed



The Toronto Railway Museum had a moratorium on collecting additional objects during 2024 while plans were finalized for a Curator to be hired in 2025.

*Brio donated new kids tables to improve the visitor experience.*



*Educational Program Coordinator, Jaclyn assists with removing old fixtures.*



# SUPPORT

## Grants Received from the Government of Canada

- Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations - \$10,875.00
- Young Canada Works at Building Careers in Heritage - \$14,500

## Municipal Support

The Toronto Railway Museum operates under an agreement with the City of Toronto. An annual contribution of \$70,680 was received from the City of Toronto to support museum operations in Roundhouse Park. A special thank you to the City for providing the museum with space in the John Street Roundhouse and permission to operate the mini train in Roundhouse Park.



*(l-r) David Mackie, Councilor Ausma Malik, Alexander Gates, Ian Kerr-Wilson*



*Volunteers enjoying dinner at Steam Whistle.*

## Support from Steam Whistle

The Toronto Railway Museum receives generous in-kind support from its neighbour, Steam Whistle. A special thank you to Steam Whistle for hosting more than 50 volunteers and supporters for dinner in the Tap Room on January 26, 2025.



# INDIVIDUAL DONORS

## (2024 CALENDAR YEAR)

### \$500+

Andrew Ashenhurst  
Lorne & Marilyn Charenko  
David Mackie

### \$25+

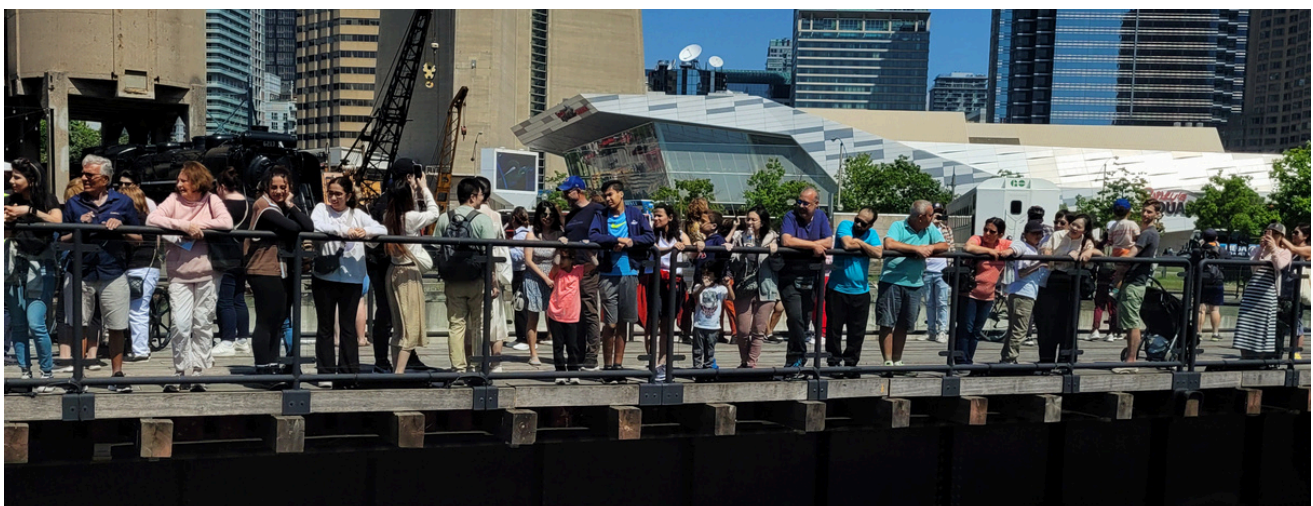
Ian Kerr-Wilson  
Lisa Rose  
James Arndt  
Stewart Doggett  
John Routh  
David Lam  
Chris Drew  
Stephen Forshaw  
Gustav Kramer  
Kathy Callaghan

### \$100+

Don Kramer  
Maxim Delisle  
Jo Ann Pynn  
Julian Reiche  
John Muller  
Sue Krivel  
Steve Brightman  
Geoffrey Chum  
Anthony Rubin  
Hans Leys

Jeffrey Smith  
Scott Haskill  
Andrew Jeanes  
Douglas Wodhams  
Marjorie McLeod  
Peter Payan  
Paul Musson  
Robert Donald  
Anonymous (2)

Thank you to our generous donors who contribute to the success of the Toronto Railway Museum. The Toronto Railway Historical Association is registered Canadian charity, #838626943RR0001.



*Visitor on the turntable during Doors Open Toronto in May 2024.*



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

The Toronto Railway Museum works with community partners throughout the year. In 2024, more than 6,000 visitors toured the Toronto Railway Museum as part of Doors Open Toronto. Special performances and celebrations took place at Don Station for Asian Heritage Month in May. New this year were chocolate tastings over Valentine's Day weekend, with a new partnership with Tasty Tours Toronto. Thank you to our friends at Operation Lifesaver and Canadian Transit Heritage Foundation who presented pop-up information booths in Roundhouse Park. We also enjoyed musical performances presented by Labyrinth Ontario in August.



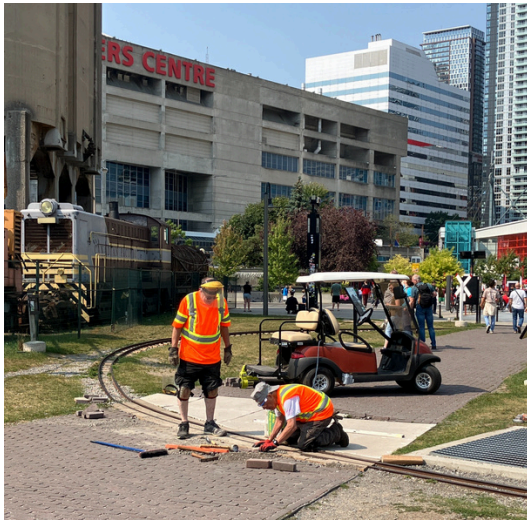
*(clockwise) Volunteers from Operation Lifesaver, Doors Open Toronto Volunteers, Attendees during a Asian Heritage Month celebration at Don Station, guests enjoying a chocolate tasting in Cape Race hosted by Tasty Tours Toronto.*



# VOLUNTEERS

## Volunteer Hours

More than 50 volunteers contributed 6,345 hours to the Toronto Railway Museum in 2024. Their contributions included giving tours, gardening, restoration of the rolling stock, maintenance of the mini train, operating the turntable, website updates, research, cleaning, assisting with special events, photography, and more!



*(left) 500 metres of track in Roundhouse Park are maintained year-round by our volunteers. Minor damage or debris can cause a derailments, so our team is regularly in the park checking for issues.*

*(below) Volunteers operate the turntable in Roundhouse Park for visitors on special event days.*



*(above) Leon and Peter remove paint from a door off of Jackman. (below) Scott primes 4803 for a new coat in January*





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The 2024-2025 Toronto Railway Historical Association audited financial statements prepared by Hilborn LLP. The following is summary of the Statement of Operations for the fiscal year.



|                                               | 2024-2025   | 2023-2024   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenue                                       | \$551,541   | \$450,066   |
| Cost of Goods Sold                            | (\$79,534)  | (\$44,252)  |
| Gross Profit                                  | \$472,007   | \$405,814   |
| Expenses                                      | (\$449,253) | (\$409,396) |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses | \$22,754    | (\$3,582)   |
|                                               |             |             |

