

Volume #64 – December, 2014

## Decembrrrrrrrrrr at the RCM!



We are starting to get excited for Christmas here at the RCM, and we hope you are too! Our annual *Merry Little Christmas Party* will take place on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-4pm. We have lots planned for children of all ages, so come on down and bring the entire family! Regular admission prices will apply, and Little Toot members will get in for free. We can't wait to see you all here!

If you are looking for something fun to do with your little engineers this month why not bring them down to the RCM for Little Toot Tuesdays, which takes place every Tuesday from 3pm-4pm. There will be a puppet show every week, accompanied by Christmas themed crafts and activities all month long to get everyone in the Christmas mood.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

*The RCM Staff*

## *In the Gift Shop...*

*Looking for great Christmas gift ideas?  
Beginning Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> we have 20%  
off all jewelry for the duration of the month. We  
also have a variety of train themed Christmas  
decorations for sale. Stop by and take a look!*

**STEELX**



**20% OFF**

**ALL JEWELRY**



## MONDELLA SKIFFINGTON HONOURS HER FATHER'S LIFE WORK ON THE RAILWAY



Photo Credit: Mondella Skiffington

Bob Osmond started his career with the Newfoundland Railway at the age of 15. He moved to Benton in 1959 and began work as a section foreman with the Newfoundland Railway until his retirement in 1979. His daughter, Mondella Skiffington, wanted to honor her father's life after his passing and so decided to paint a 120 foot train monument with both historical and family significance. There are thirteen train carts in her painting, and each represents a child of Mr. Osmond.

Mr. Osmond loved his family deeply, and he loved the railway. He started working with the railway in 1939 and stuck with it his whole life, no matter the challenges he faced. He was a very hard worker, and he instilled his incredible work ethic in his children, which is something that brings great pride to Mondella.

Mondella's painting couldn't be more accurately placed, as it runs parallel to Benton's former railroad. She sees great significance in her artwork being historically accurate, and shows great interest in Benton's railroad history. Mondella has plans to add the old Benton train station and post office next year to her painting, as well as a railroad crossing sign and a "Welcome to Benton" sign.

The railway is extremely important to Mondella, and so is Benton, the community in which she lived for the majority of her life. She wants the sacrifice and dedication of those who worked with the railway to be known and remembered by future generations. She is very proud of her parents, and wanted to show her love for them through her artwork.

## For your Little Engineers:



30%  
off

ALL  
Chuggington  
and Dinosaur  
Train Toys!



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY:

# DECEMBER

This month in 1941 the railway had just reached a new record number of passengers, grossing one and a half million dollars, while freight revenue totalled three and a half million dollars. The increased popularity of the train created a high demand for employees in basically every department of the railway.

December 31, 1941 *The Daily News* published an article titled "Railway had Greatest Volume of Traffic in History of Service." Things were looking optimistic for the future of the Newfoundland Railway, as the article predicted it would provide ample work for the next twelve months for the province.

The railway was prospering – for the first time it was self-sufficient and did not have to rely on the taxpayer's money for its operation. What was bringing about this prosperous era? The Second World War. Soldiers used the train to traverse the island easily. The train was also used to transport supplies both around the island and to other provinces in Canada. The years of World War II were the most successful in Newfoundland Railroad history, particularly this time in 1941.