

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Steam Engine*

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**(Gatineau, Tuesday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007) — This week-end will resonate with the sounds of festivities as the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train's vintage steam locomotive celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

On this occasion, the 909 steam engine will be particularly sparkling for its parade through the picturesque Gatineau hills. As for the passengers, they will take on the look of trainmen with a special gift to be offered upon their arrival. Musicians and children's entertainers will take part in the celebration. To commemorate their visit, passengers will also enjoy a slice of traditional anniversary cake served in Wakefield.

In Wakefield, passengers will also assist in the turntable operation. The 93-ton engine will be pivoted by hand on one of the last remaining manual turntable in North America. Afterwards, they will be invited to take part in a guided walking tour of the village or to climb aboard the steam engine to learn all about the secrets of steam-powered engines. Reservations are also required for the anniversary departures of June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **The story engine no. 909**

Steam locomotives exert much fascination, how not to be impressed by these iron giants. As for locomotive 909, it has its share of tales to tell. Built by the Statens Järnvägars (SJ), the Swedish rail authority, locomotive 909 dates back to 1907. During many years, it served passengers traveling throughout Sweden before it was warehoused during the Cold War along with 200 other steam engines. Therefore, the 909 was kept in a barn until



1988, wrapped in a plastic tarp to protect it from the humidity. When Sweden decided to sell its steam locomotives, coincidentally, a tourist train project was taking shape in our own National Capital Region. This resulted in the 1992 acquisition of the 909 engine, the diesel locomotive and 9 passenger cars. The equipment was sea bound from Sweden to Canada by freighter to the port of Montreal in time for the inaugural trip on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1992.

### **Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train**

The only European rolling stock on Canadian soil, the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train is one of the last excursion steam trains in Canada. It also features one of the country's oldest operating steam engines. Located in the Outaouais, minutes from Ottawa, the train takes you on a journey to the picturesque village of Wakefield along the banks of the beautiful Gatineau river with on-board tour guides and entertainers.

For more information on the excursions, visit [www.steamtrain.ca](http://www.steamtrain.ca) or call 1-800-871-7246.

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**Photo-opp :** Media are invited to take images of the steam engine before its 10 a.m. departure or during the stop-over in Wakefield from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Complete story of the 909 steam engine and archive photo available upon request.**

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