



## *Canadian Pacific Railway Station* *Port of Goderich*

Situated in the harbour area is the Canadian Pacific Railway station house. Built in 1907, it is distinguished by a round front tower with a conical roof from which all areas of the freight yard were visible. The yard was once full of storage sheds and, until 1955, two passenger trains departed the Goderich harbour daily. Referenced in the Canadian Heritage Railway Stations Inventory of 1987, the building has been designated by the municipality for reasons of both architectural and contextual significance.

The station is built of red brick with a limestone foundation. The hipped roof over the central portion boasts a cross gable and lunette. The wraparound canopy that circled the entire building and sheltered the platform, together with its supporting brackets, have been removed, but could be restored one day. Exceptional interior features remain intact including the windows, wooden screens, interior doors, fixtures, trim and decorative plaster. The original ceiling with three large medallions is still in place above the dropped ceiling tiles.

The land on which the building is situated, was purchased from the Canada Company in 1837 by Jacob Cummer and John Wilson. Canadian Pacific Rail began its freight and passenger service in 1907 and, on August 3, 1988, the last train stopped on the bridge to blow its whistle for a final time. The former Canadian Pacific Railway bridge that spans the Maitland River, saved by the Menesetung Bridge Association, has had its tracks removed and is now enjoyed as a major feature of the hiking trail. The Menesetung Bridge is also protected by heritage designation. In 2007, both the station and the bridge were celebrated in 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary events recognizing their significance to the town.

Adjacent to the station is a natural spring that used to attract visitors arriving on the passenger service. The Menesetung Mineral Spring's waters continue to flow every day of the year – which you can see today – circled by the hedges remaining from the old garden that was part of this “spa” attraction. Other associated structures in the harbour of particular interest are the historic grain elevators, the salt mines and a singular remaining fish house that reminds one of the bustling settlement that began at the harbour in 1827. The beaches, the hiking and cycling trails as well as the parklands are all enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Canadian Pacific Rail sold the station house and the land it owned to the Town of Goderich in 1992. As of the fall of 2008, the Parks Department operations have been temporarily located here while Town Hall renovations are being completed.

The Maitland Trail Association, the Menesetung Bridge Association, the visual arts community, educational and recreational programming committees, the garden railway society and many people from all walks of life would like to see this building restored and continue to be used for community and educational functions. There is much work to be done to save this treasured building. The trail association maintains the building with volunteer efforts and your donations which are gratefully appreciated. We hope you enjoy your visit to the Canadian Pacific Railway station.

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