

The Larry Paikin Literacy Express

To inspire young children with the joy of reading in a unique setting—a 1954 CN Passenger railway car.

In October 2010 the Paikin family met with Don MacVicar, Eva Rothwell Centre Founding President, to discuss an idea to enhance the reading skills of the children of the Eva Rothwell Centre community. Larry, Steve and Jeff Paikin suggested a rail car to become the new home of the program.

This set the train in motion and work on the Larry Paikin Literacy Express began in 2011 and it opened for reading programs in 2014.



Left: Larry Paikin (top), Marnie and Larry Paikin, The Larry Paikin Literacy Express

Putting it together

Over the course of four years, funds were raised by Jeff Paikin and the family to fund the project.

A group of volunteers from New Horizon Homes led by Bruce Wells including his team of carpenters, electricians, painters and others came together to renovate the Literacy Express.

Demetrius Tsafaridis not only hosted the rail car at his CareGo site, but also helped fund it during the renovation.

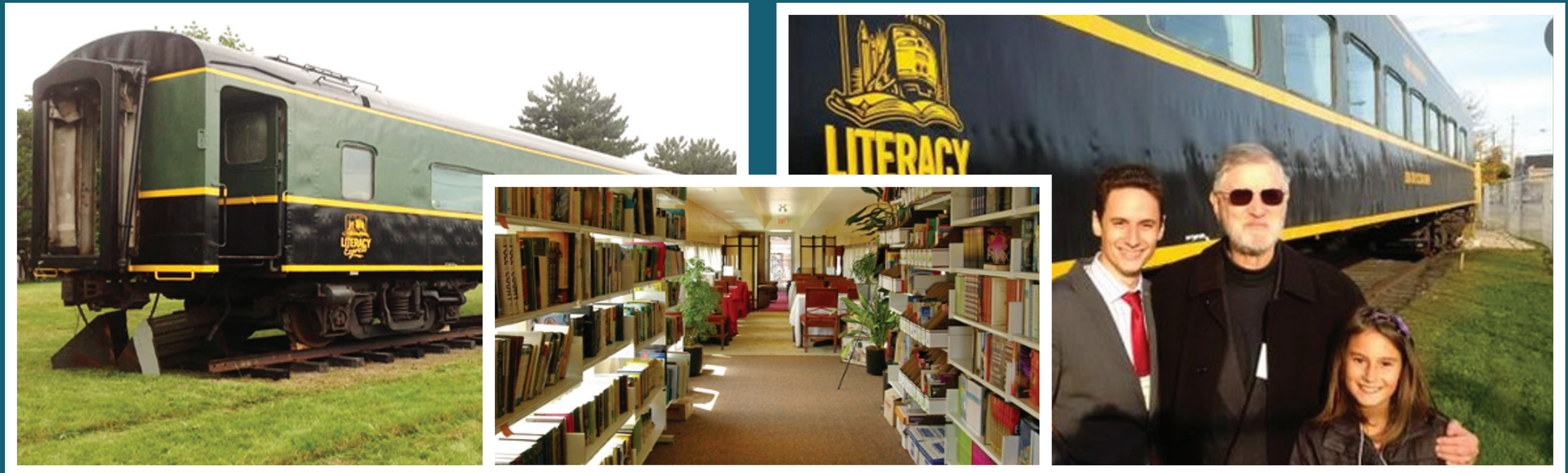
At right, you can see the original interior while it travelled on the Agawa Canyon Line, the signing for the purchase of the passenger car, and the demolition and renovation beginning.



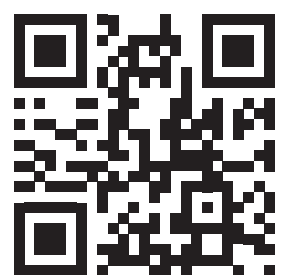
Jeff Paikin

Bruce Wells

Demetrius Tsafaridis



The Larry Paikin Literacy Express has inspired a new generation of readers.



We are forever grateful for the support and generous donations that make this project possible.

Learn more about the Larry Paikin Literacy Express and the list of our Dedicated Donors at evarithwell.ca.

