

Toronto Railway Museum

Learnings

February 20th 2021

HRA Canada Conference

By Russ Milland

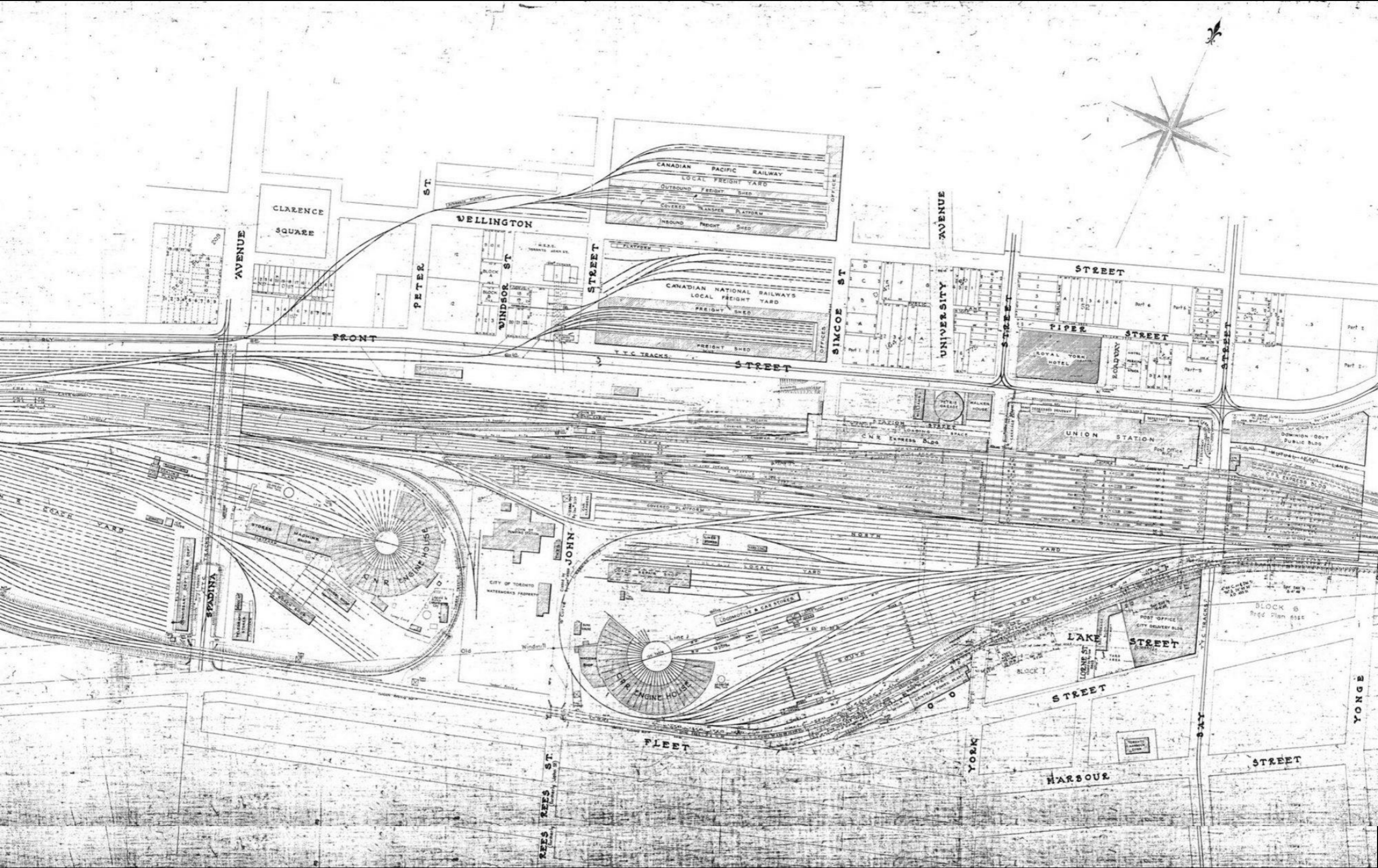


Location, Location, Location



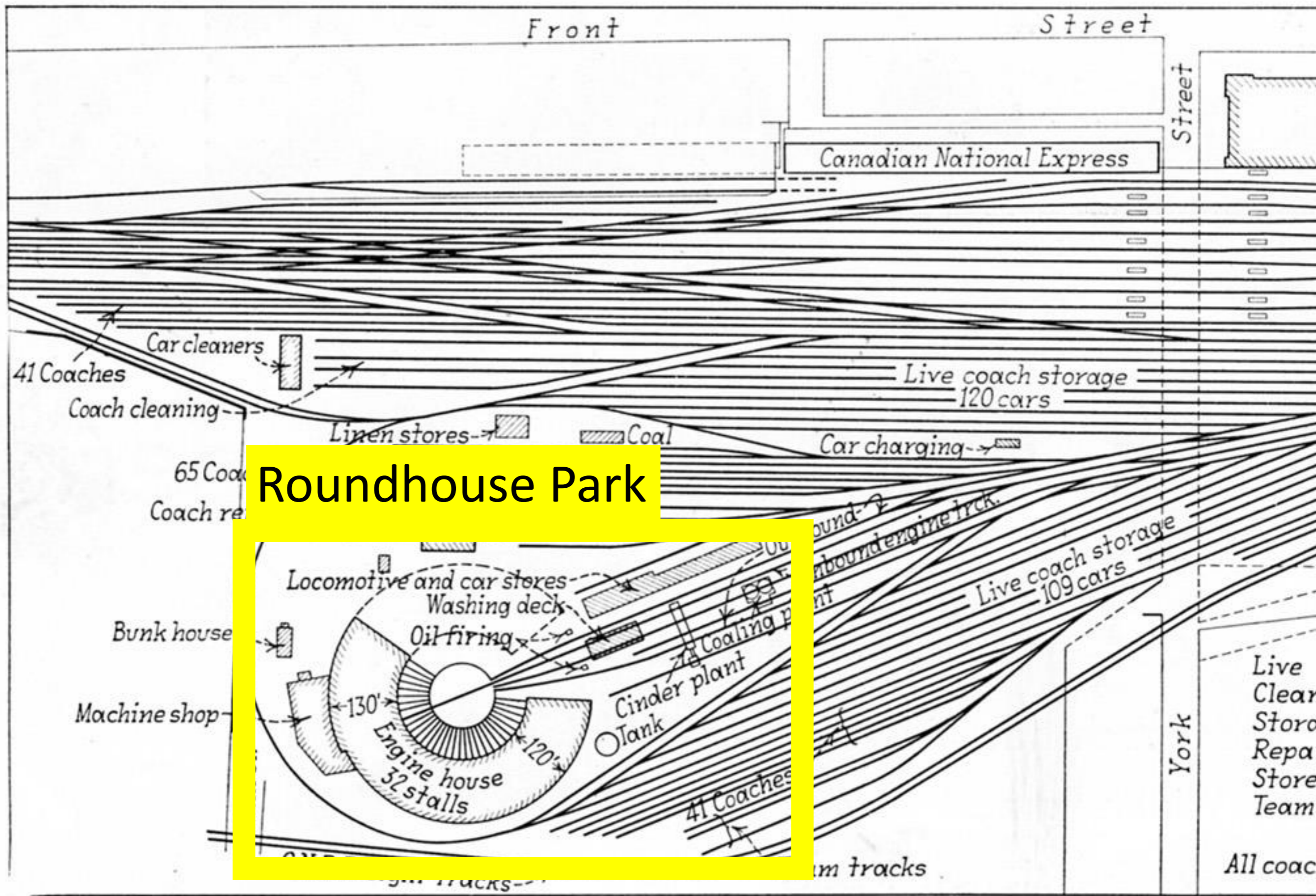


1940's and 1950's



Ancient History Pre-2001

- Rail yards slowly disappear in 1980's and 1990's
- CP/CN's Real Estate plans huge development
 - CN Roundhouse demolished overnight
 - City of Toronto furious and stonewalls
- CP/CN donates Roundhouse Park and CP Roundhouse to City
 - Cabin D moved to the Park to rest in peace



Roundhouse Park

General Plan of the New Engine Terminal and Coaches

Underground parking lot built under Roundhouse Park



Coaling tower moved hundreds of feet



Ancient History Pre-2001

- Rail enthusiasts develop collections
- Railway museums planned for:
 1. Ontario Science Centre
 2. Powerplant on waterfront
 3. CPR Roundhouse and Roundhouse Park
 - Rail Enthusiasts lose patience and rebel
 - Collections partly stored in Roundhouse
 - Collections partially distributed







Norm Betts

Ancient History Pre-2001

- Public/private partnerships become popular with City of Toronto to develop heritage properties
- Steam Whistle Brewery locates in Stalls 1 to 14 with Brewery including store, reception area, tours and event spaces



Launching the museum development (2001)

- Retired federal government lobbyist convinces City of Toronto of the case for a railway museum
- Assembles an experienced team of professionals
 - Railway Historian
 - Transportation and Business Consultants
 - Building Architects
 - Enterprise Architect
 - Developer
 - Lawyer
 - Technology & Business Systems

NO "Museologists"

2001 to 2010: Preparing to open

- Team of volunteers meets monthly in TRHA President's home
 - Works closely with **Glenn Garwood**, City's Project Manager
 - Incorporates **Toronto Railway Historical Association** (TRHA) as charitable non-profit corporation
 - Develop formal **Operating Agreement** with the City



2001 to 2010: Preparing to open

The “John Street Roundhouse Development Corporation”

- Long term leases the CPR Roundhouse for 69 years
- Develops remainder of Roundhouse interior
 - Stalls 15 to 17 for TRHA
 - Stalls 18 to 32 for Leon’s Furniture

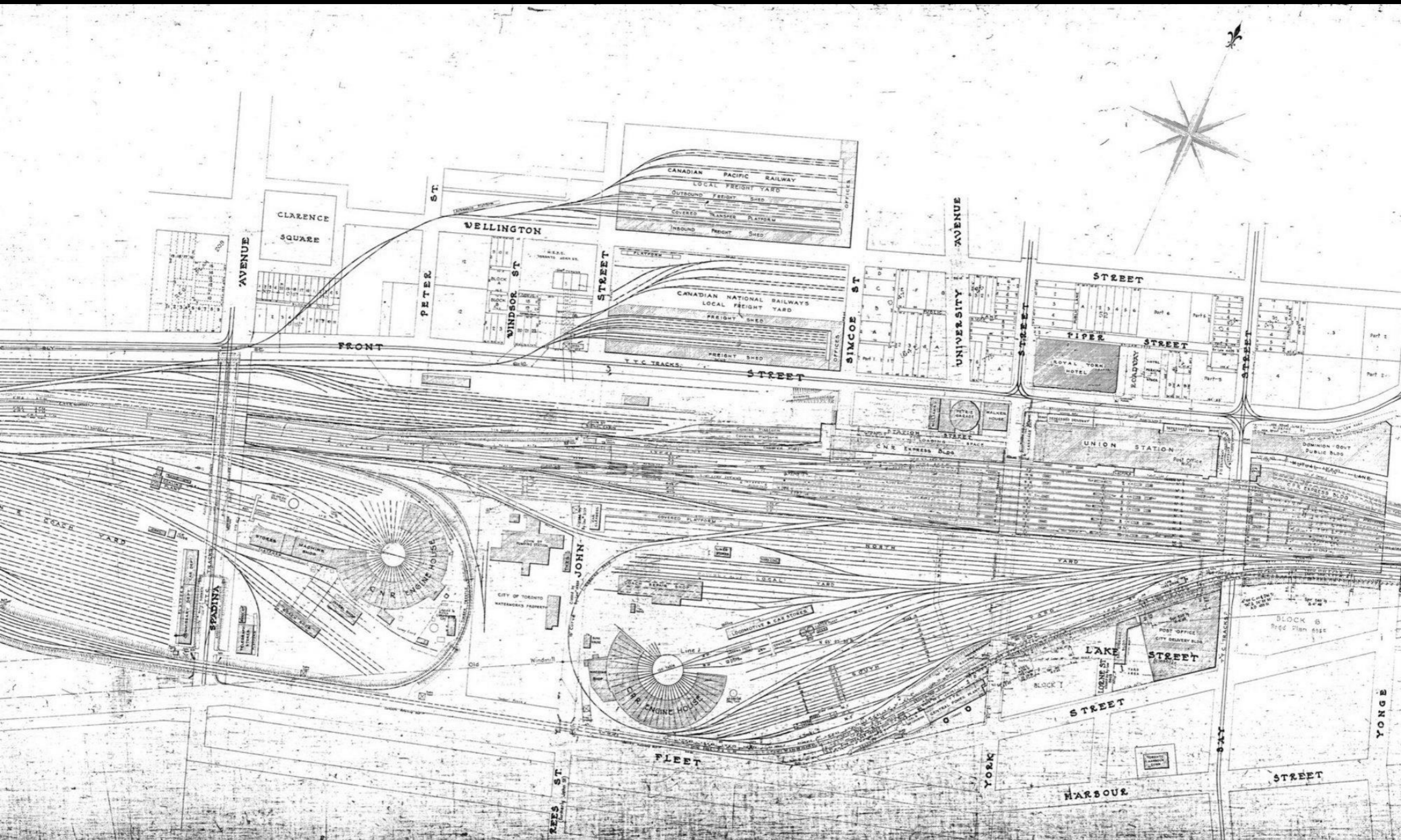


Roundhouse interior – Leon's Furniture





Volunteers develop Toronto Rail Lands Simulation (2006)



Volunteers develop Toronto Rail Lands Simulation (2006)



2001 to 2010

- City of Toronto major investments:
 - Restoration of Cabin D & Tool Shed
 - Move and restore Don Station
 - Move CNR Northern 4-8-4 #6213
 - Restore the 120 foot turntable
 - Build a Miniature railway
 - Acquire operational diesel locomotive
 - Acquire GE U33C Cab with simulator

DGERS CENTRE





December 10, 2008









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Roundhouse Park Miniature Railway





Developing our Mini-museum

- **Our footprint**
 - **A mini-museum occupying 1 of our 3 stalls**
 - **Restoration space occupying 2 of our 3 stalls**
 - **Exhibits in Cabin D**
 - **Retail store in Don Station**
- **Mini-museum design led by our volunteer architect**
 - **Exhibits developed by**
 - **Our staff and volunteers**
 - **Teams from local colleges and universities**

Museum opens in May of 2010



**Don
Loucks**

**Glenn
Garwood**

**David
Miller**

**Orin
Krivel**

**Derek
Boles**

After grand opening in May of 2010

- Museum opens 5 days per week (Wednesday to Sunday – Noon to 5 PM)
- Initial full time staff -> manager + receptionist
- Founding team -> TRHA Advisory Group
- Several Volunteers -> TRHA Executive team
- Meet Monday evenings online with the Museum manager



Self managing leaderless Restoration Team

Chose to work on Thursdays and Saturdays



Self managing leaderless Restoration Team

Also assist with operations and maintenance



Growing our online presence

- Building our public, volunteer and stakeholder communities
- www.torontorailwaymuseum.com & www.trha.ca
- 1,400 on public mailing list
- 100's on "friends of the museum" discussion group
- Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Volunteers growing an online encyclopedia of Railway History
 - Stations, Railways, Trains, Locomotives, etc.

Goal: Be both a Physical and Virtual Railway Museum!

LIVE WITH A REAL STEAM TRAIN.
• AT THE ROUNDHOUSE THEATRE •

★★★★★
'MARVELLOUS'
Mail On Sunday

★★★★★
'SPECTACULAR'
Times

★★★★★
'MAGNIFICENT'
Evening Standard

★★★★★
'THRILLING'
Guardian

★★★★★
'GLORIOUS'
Daily Telegraph

★★★★★
'REMARKABLE'
Daily Express

★★★★★
'EXCELLENT'
Daily Mail

★★★★★
'RIPPING'
Sunday Times

★★★★★
'EXTRAORDINARY'
Sunday Telegraph

★★★★★
'FANTASTIC'
News of the World

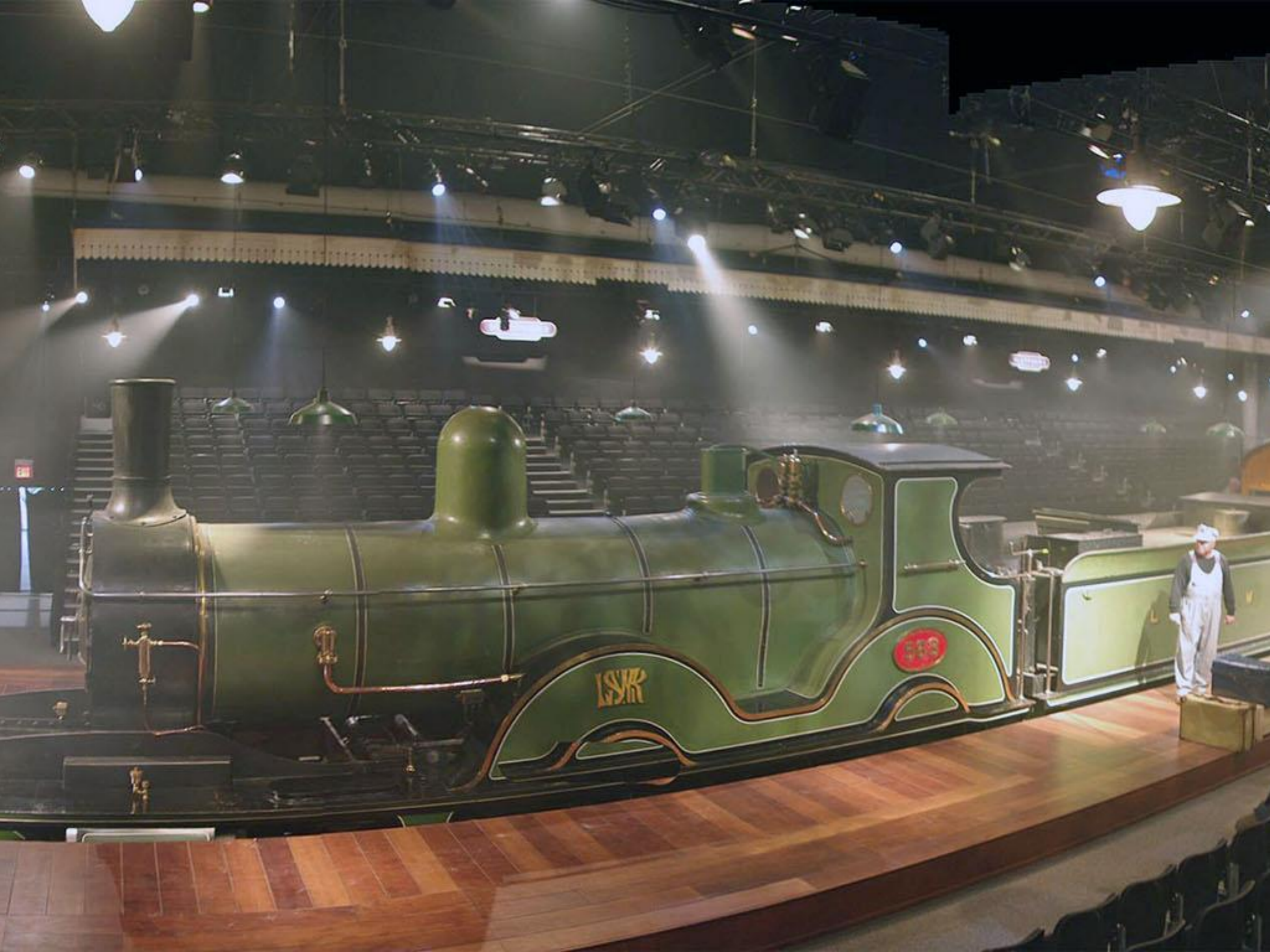
★★★★★
'SPELLBINDING'
Sunday Express

E. NESBIT'S
THE RAILWAY CHILDREN



Special Events
in
Roundhouse
Park





GO Transit's 50th Anniversary exhibit ...



GO Transit's 50th Anniversary exhibit ...



Don Station



Don Station





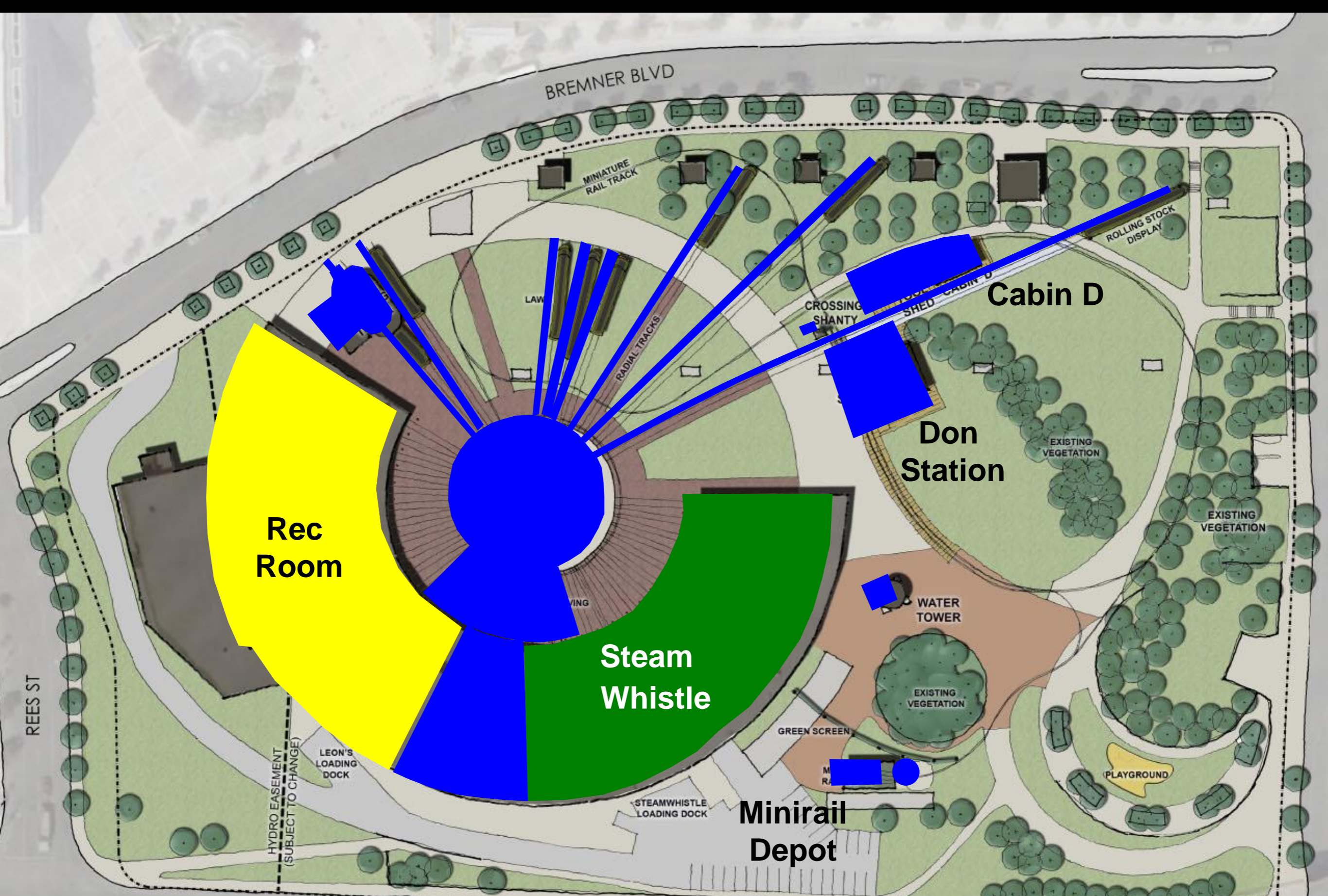
Cabin D and Toolshed

Cabin D



GE U33C Simulator





Toronto Railway Museum Facilities

Staffing the growing museum

- Expanded paid staffing by hiring
 - Museum Manager and Curator
 - Two brand new “museologists” graduates
- They became the “Museum Management Team”
 - Focused initially on Museum Operations
 - Expanding their responsibilities year by year
- Paid staff expanded to 14 for the summer
 - 7 day per week operation for July and August

Expansion of our TRHA Board

- **Executive Team recently evolved into:**
 - **Operations Team which meets weekly**
 - **Expanded Board which meets monthly addressing:**
 - **Mission, Vision, Strategies**
 - **Branding and Marketing Strategies**
 - **Fundraising Strategies**

Celebration!



**Do you want to learn
more?**



Or contact

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