The Story of Steam Locomotive 2141



The high-pitched whistle screams. The distinctive sound of the piston driven wheels grows louder and louder. Out of a billowing cloud of steam locomotive 2141 emerges, as if magically from another time. An "ALL ABOARD" call is your invitation to a rail experience that tells a small part of the story of when the railway helped build a country.

The story of the steam locomotive 2141 should have ended on July 4, 1958. After its final return trip to Victoria, the engine was parked and left to the ravages of the corrosive salt air of the Pacific Ocean. It was one of a series of 25 engines built in Kingston Ont. in 1912 and saw service all over Canada. Slowly, time and technology started to catch up to this family of 25. One by one they all fell under the torch and were scrapped for iron, a sad fate which surely awaited the sole survivor of the once great family. But, like every good story, this one has a hero.

The first hero of this story is Mayor Jack Fitzwater. In 1961 he purchased the engine, had it shipped to Kamloops and mounted in Riverside Park. For over 30 years it sat dormant, patiently waiting, content knowing that by allowing generations of kids to explore and pretend, it was helping ignite a passion that would ultimately bring about its own resurrection, a resurrection that would begin in 1994.

Slowly, this sleeping giant began

to stir. Every moving part was loving massaged back from its atrophy. The second hero emerges as a dedicated group, committed to ensuring future generations are able to experience the 2141 the way it was meant to be experienced, steaming down the mainline with its passenger cars full.

Today, the Kamloops Heritage Railway incorporates an amazing onboard experience with a variety of non-rail experiences, including a tour of the shop that brought our beloved engine back to life. The mission of KHR is to entertain, educate and enrich. Whether it's on the Spirit of Kamloops which runs from June to Sept or aboard one of the Halloween or Christmas trains, step back in time and be part of our story.

Cory Clark Executive Director

