



RAILWAY MUSEUMS & RAIL HERITAGE IN CANADA

Heritage Planning

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*Solutions
with a
Focus on
Cultural
& Natural
Heritage*

Commonwealth has provided planning and restoration services for several railway Museums:

- *The Canadian Museum of Rail Travel in Cranbrook, British Columbia:* a nationally significant heritage tourism attraction that collects, restores, and displays complete transcontinental passenger trains;
- *West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish, British Columbia:* a museum of province-wide scope whose collection and activities commemorate the physical, industrial, and social history of the railway in British Columbia;
- *Prince George Railway and Forest Industry Museum in Prince George, British Columbia:* a regional museum that interprets railway and industrial activity in Central British Columbia; and
- *Smiths Falls Railway Museum in Smiths Falls, Ontario:* a regional museum whose architectural centrepiece is the former Canadian Northern Railway Station, a National Historic Site.



Smiths Falls Railway Museum



Prince George Railway and Forest Industry Museum

For the three British Columbia museums, Commonwealth prepared a Master Plan that addressed collections management, site development, operations, interpretation, and programming; for two of them, the firm also prepared a Business Plan that addressed financial management and economic impact. For the Ontario museum, the firm helped with the restoration of the historic station, facilitated workshops, and secured financial assistance from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Commonwealth has particular expertise in Canadian rail heritage. The firm has prepared thematic and structural histories of ten railway stations across the country, for the Heritage Railway Stations programme of Parks Canada. The office has conducted in-depth inventories of Canadian Pacific Railway stations in Ontario (for the Ontario Heritage Foundation) and post-1950 railway stations in British Columbia (for Parks Canada). Harold Kalman has written a classic history of Canadian railway hotels, and he has published and lectured on a variety of railway-related topics.

Proposed Transcontinental Station, Canadian Museum of Rail Travel

