



Cliff Bain, standing in front of the Hawk Junction railway station, looks forward to visiting with old friends at the Hawk reunion to celebrate the municipality's near 100th birthday party this weekend. More than 260 have registered for the homecoming.
Shirley Mills

C'mon home to Hawk Junction

Reunion set for weekend

Posted By Shirley Mills

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HAWK JUNCTION — It's been almost 100 years since Algoma Central Railway went through the settlement in 1909 — close enough to the 100-year mark for celebration, residents reasoned.

There are more than 260 registered for the homecoming reunion, organizers Irene Armstrong and Robin Joannis said in an interview. The party promises to be a fun-filled three days, beginning Friday at the two-hour meet and greet. "When people come rolling in for the registering, this will be the time to reconnect and seeing everyone in general," Joannis said.

Armstrong said most of those registered are from out of town, hailing from as far as P.E.I., Kelowna, B.C., and many points throughout the U.S. There will be entertainment, food, dances, games and music, including a performance from Flat Stanley, a four-member band from Sault Ste. Marie, with roots in Hawk.

Illusionist Ryan McFarling is also on the marquee.

"The event is not only adult focused," Armstrong said. "We wanted to include the kids, but accompanied by an adult."

The registration fee is \$30 and includes a goody bag, midnight buffet Saturday and continental breakfast Sunday morning. On the menu Saturday will be baked beans, bannock, sausage on a bun and desserts — all homemade.

There are many volunteers to assist the six-person organizing committee. There have been donations of lumber, posters from local artist Bob Peterson and a large tent from the Michipicoten First Nation.

"There's even a trumpeter to play the Last Post for the service at Pine Grove Cemetery," Armstrong said. All money over and above regular event costs will go to the Local Services Board for town revitalization.

Hawk Junction is a railroad town that began with the ACR, Wisconsin Central and now Canadian National. Many in the town of 300 are involved in the industry.

Cindy Long and partner Michel Lacroix are both long-time residents.

"We lost a couple of families when Weyerhaeuser closed but, just recently, there has been a couple more move in," said Long, who has three children.

She works in Wawa and is a member of the Hawk Junction volunteer fire department.

"This community is amazing, friendly and generous — a safe place to raise kids.

"No matter where I end up, Hawk will always be my home," said Long, looking forward to meeting with friends from Florida.

Cliff Bain arrived in Hawk Junction at nine and, despite forays into the work world in other towns, even as far away as B.C., has been a permanent resident since joining the ACR in 1957.

"It's been a good life. I met my wife, Margaret, in 1953 and we had five boys and three girls; most of them work and live here today," Bain said.

Bain, 81, hailed the reunion as a chance to meet old friends. He recalls community celebrations when he was a youngster

"Like the first of July, we would all gather and walk by boat or canoe to Hawk Lake. There were no roads. There would be fireworks, swimming, games and good food," he added.

Bain anticipates a visit with the Livingstons, from Pittsburgh.

"They owned a boarding house and I delivered milk the two kilometers to where their establishment was," he added. "I was 12 and pulled a wagon in summer and a sleigh in the winter with the help of an old dog."