

All-Aboard!



News Release for SooNews.ca
Thursday, April 5, 2007, 12:08PM
Printed from <http://www.soonews.ca/viewarticle.php?id=11708>



Boreal forests, powerful rivers and the rocky heart of the Canadian shield will all be on display in less than three weeks for participants of the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (CAPT) All-Aboard event. Anticipation is mounting for this exciting adventure by train that will be departing Sault Ste. Marie on April 22nd. After a layover in Hearst and a bus trip to Cochrane on the 23rd, the journey will continue aboard an Ontario Northland Railway train down through Temagami, North Bay, and Huntsville before concluding with arrival at Union Station in Toronto on April 24th.

The All-Aboard trip will showcase Northern Ontario's spectacular landscape. Traveling by passenger train is a unique and environmentally sound way to experience the region's pristine forests and rugged backcountry. Train service has helped to keep wilderness areas accessible while leaving far less of an ecological footprint than other methods of transportation. Improvements to rail service and infrastructure are needed to preserve the region's natural splendour and assist it in realizing its potential as an eco-tourism destination.

The trip will also highlight the diverse and rich cultures of many of Northern Ontario's communities. Travelers aboard the train will be able to experience events such as a Franco-Ontarian banquet in Hearst, a presentation by the Eagle's Earth Historical Centre and a performance by the Cree Soul Women. Guides will also provide commentary during the trip about aboriginal and francophone culture, the wilderness and its influence on artists such as the Group of Seven, the history of the train and other topics of interest.

The All-Aboard event will also show why Ontario's wilderness trains are so economically vital to many communities, especially in Northern Ontario. Train service helps to keep remote communities connected and sustains many jobs in the lucrative and labour-intensive tourism industry. Tourism generates revenues of over sixteen million dollars annually in the Algoma region. Representatives from Searchmont, Wawa, Dubreuilville, Hearst and Cochrane will discuss the importance of rail service in their communities and why improvements are needed.

The All-Aboard event promises to be an unforgettable journey through some of North America's most awesome wilderness. For more information including a full trip itinerary and pricing, please visit the CAPT website, www.captrains.ca. Inquiries will also be answered via phone at (705)949-2301 ext. 4349 or e-mail at info@captrains.ca.