

Welcome to the Roseneath Carousel

This Carousel was built in 1906 in Abilene, Kansas by C.W. Parker who was known as the king in the manufacture of amusement rides.

It consists of 40 basswood horses, 3 abreast, and 2 metal boats. The centre row has Herschell/Spillman or Armitage/Herschell horses. The inside and outside rows have Parker Jumper Horses.

It is balanced from a centre post and is powered by a 5 hp electric motor. Through a series of belts and clutches, it travels at approximately 4 miles per hour.

The Heart of Roseneath is the 125 Wulitzer military band organ complete with paper rolls built in 1934 which ushers out the nostalgic music.

After the Carousel left the factory in Abilene, there are a lot of gaps in its history. Records of the early days of this Carousel were destroyed by fire at the Abilene museum. However, we do know that it travelled around the country to fairs and amusement parks, finally surfacing at Mohawk Park in Brantford, Ontario where it operated at the end of a rail line. When the rail line closed, the Carousel was dismantled and put into storage.

In 1932, a group of seven directors from the Roseneath Agricultural Society led by then President, Fred Slade of the Society travelled to Mohawk Park in Brantford, purchased the Carousel for \$675.00 and returned it to Roseneath along with seven wheelbarrow loads of small parts mostly nuts, bolts and washers. It was then re-erected on the exact spot where it prominently sits today on the Roseneath fairgrounds. A 16-sided wooden building was then constructed to house the Carousel. The building has a clear span of 80 feet with the original sheet steel roof.

From 1932 to 1986 the maintenance of the mechanical parts were carried out by local trades people. Local High School students would repaint the horses as required to have the Carousel ready for the annual Roseneath Fair each year. In 1985 the Carousel no longer met Ontario's safety standards and was shut down due to disrepair.

In 1987, a group of Agricultural Society members who called themselves the Roseneath Carousel Restoration committee began a \$400,000.00 fundraising campaign to restore the Carousel to its original museum quality but rideable condition.

A major part of the fundraising campaign was an adopt a horse program. For \$5,000.00 over a 5 year period, service clubs, groups, families or individuals each pooled their resources. Upon completion, a brass plate was attached under each horse on the Carousel's platform engraved with name of the horse and its donor(s).

The mirrors attached to the rounding boards underwent the same process. For a donation of \$1000.00, donors names now appear on a plaque which graces a wall inside the Carousel. All sixteen mirrors have now been adopted.

Under the expert hands of master carver Konstantin von Waldburg the restoration process took one year to complete. There were 7 coats of paint to be removed from the horses along with the carving of many new ears and legs. The horses were stripped coat by coat down to the base coat of paint. These colours were then sealed. Konstantin send to Eurpoe for pigments of paint to produce the exact original colours the horses were when they left the Parker plant in Abilene in 1906.

The Roseneath Carousel Restoratte committte has in their possession, 27 volumes of documentation furnished to them by Konstantin, on the proper procedure to restore a carousel. If another restoration project like the Roseneath Carousel is attempted again in Ontario, this documentation will have to be followed as set out by a Ontario Heritage Foundation ruling.

The mechanical system was refurbished by Lakeland Machinists in Cobourg.

The wooden sweeps where refurbished by Partek Construction Company also from Cobourg.

The original canvasses for the gear screen panels and rounding boards were so old, they crumbled under the touch, which left the art work undetectable. Therefore; sixteen new gear screen panels depicting scenes from the area of Northumberland County along with pictures of animals, birds and flowers adorn the rounding boards. These original canvasses where produced by international artist Ron Bolt who lives in Gores Landing, Ontario.

The original collection of 16 paintings for the gear screen panels known as the "Roseneath Carousel Collection" were sold as a one of kind collection to a lawyer in Toronto for \$16,000.00. The original set of 16 paintings for the rounding boards were sold or auctioned off individually. This allowed payment to Mr. Bolt for his portion of the project.

Local artists, Herma Seppanen and Avril Bull Jones were commissioned to reproduce the original paintings for the gear screen panels and the rounding boards on the Carousel today.

July 17, 1993 marked the grand re-opening of the Carousel. During the restoration, the number 3 was found on the ring gear. Only four of this type of Carousel were built in 1906. The whereabouts of the other three are unknown. Presumably, they have been dismantled and sold on the auction block as individual horses. This makes the Roseneath Carousel unique in itself as it is believed to be the only one of its kind in existence in North America.

In 1998, the original Carousel building underwent significant repairs. A total of \$25,000.00 installed a new foundation, a complete concrete floor and new exterior boards to replace those destroyed by age. An exhaust fan was also installed to assist in curbing any build up of moisture (the main enemy of the restoration project) inside the Carousel building

In 2005, the first part of a lighting system was returned to the gear screen panels by retired electrician and one of our Carousel volunteer operators Alan Wilson. Today, work continues to have the lighting system returned to the round board as well with the assistance of a grant from the National Carousel Preservation.

Fundraising continues towards a new climate controlled building to house and protect the restored Carousel.

The existing building could become a museum to display complete details of the restoration work as it progressed. On view would be original mechanical parts no longer in use and photographs of the Carousel and its riders from the earliest days of the Roseneath Fall Fair.

TSSA (Technical Standards and Safety Authority) under the wing of the provincial government now inspect, regulate and licence the carousel every year. Volunteer mechanics Eric Childs and David Bourguignon had to pass a written exam set by TSSA in order to run the Carousel.

The Carousel operates thanks to a group of volunteers each and every Sunday from 1-3 p.m. from Victoria Day weekend to Thanksgiving weekend as well as for the annual Roseneath Fair and the Roseneath Agricultural Society's annual Car/Truck/Tractor Show n' Shine at 9109 County Road #45, on the Roseneath fairgrounds.

Take Highway 401, exit 474 at Cobourg to County Road #45 north. The Carousel is located on the east side of County Road #45 in the village of Roseneath, Ontario Canada approximately 20 km north of the town of Cobourg, Ontario.

Unscheduled openings, bus tours or rental arrangements for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, reunions etc. available contact Barb Foreman @ 905-352-3778; or email carousel@eagle.ca Visit our website at www.roseneathcarousel.com

The Roseneath Carousel Restoration committee invite you to bring your whole family to Roseneath to enjoy a ride on this beautifully restored Carousel.

Hope to see you around the Carousel !