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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Though Conneaut Lake Park Will Open for the 2006 Season, Its Miniature Train Struggles to Survive

Conneaut Lake, PA March 15, 2006 – Despite its public financial and custody battles, Northwestern PA’s Conneaut Lake Park will open for the 2006 season on May 26. However, the Park may again be without its beloved, historic Bessemer Railway System miniature train unless funds can be raised to replace the entire track system.

On February 20, 2006, Park General Manager George Deshner announced that the Conneaut Lake Institute, Inc. and Conneaut Lake Park would co-sponsor the Brick by Brick fund drive that will support the restoration of the historic train. By selling personalized, laser-engraved paving bricks, the Institute and Park hope to raise an estimated \$56,000 in time to complete the month-and-a-half long construction project before the Park opens.

“The fund raiser began just over three weeks ago, and we have already raised enough to secure our rail and spike order, but we are still far from our goal,” said Catriona Todd, a Davies Community Service Leader from Allegheny College, who has spearheaded this fund raising campaign. “Our next focus is to raise enough to buy the 900 ties and the gravel we’ll need to actually start construction.”

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The bricks' laser-engraved lettering gives them a sleek appearance, and their personal messages give them a nostalgic quality. They come in two sizes:

4"x8" (up to 3 lines) \$100

8"x8" (up to 6 lines) \$200

Each line of text on the bricks may contain up to 20 characters, including letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation marks.

Conneaut Lake Institute, Inc. and Conneaut Lake Park encourage you to order as many bricks as you would like; using one to honor a railway worker or a loved one, memorialize a special occasion, or as a gift. Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated and will be used toward the Bessemer Railway System restoration project.

The Bessemer Railway System was named for the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad Company, founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1897, which used to carry iron ore and passengers from Conneaut, OH to the Pittsburgh, PA region.

The current engine and car system at Conneaut Lake Park is one of only 49 "Iron Horse" models manufactured by the Allan Herschell Company of Buffalo, NY between 1966 and 1970. There is only a handful of this train model still in public operation.

Conneaut Lake Park acquired its "Iron Horse" in 1968, and by the end of the 2002 operational season, it had fallen into such disrepair that the ride had to be shut down. With your invaluable support, we can get this historical gem back on track.

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