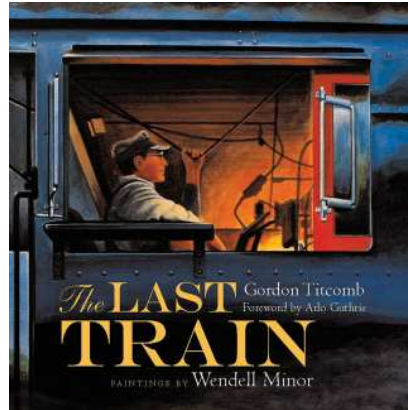




ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT



MEET THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR AT A BOOK SIGNING FOR THE LAST TRAIN

**Saturday, October 2, 2010
12:00 pm to 3:30 pm**

ESSEX, CONN., -- Calling all grandparents, moms, dads and kids! On Saturday, October 2nd, you're invited to **Essex Steam Train & Riverboat** for a Book Signing with the author and illustrator of *The Last Train*, an emotional tribute for train lovers of all ages. Meet the author and acclaimed musician, Gordon Titcomb, and the award-winning illustrator of over 40 books for children, Wendell Minor, who translate their vivid memories of growing up near small town railroad stations into a captivating emotional journey.

***Essex Steam Train & Riverboat* Home of Engine No. 40 The Steam Locomotive Featured In The Last Train**

And what better place to share *The Last Train* than the perfect storybook setting of **Essex Steam Train & Riverboat** -- located in the small, historic village of Essex, CT with its 1892 freight depot, Essex Station. Illustrator Wendell Minor even chose Essex Steam Train's Locomotive No. 40 as the "big iron horse" for his paintings throughout the pages of *The Last Train*!

Also on October 2nd . . . visiting readers can bring *The Last Train* to life aboard an Essex Steam Train ride pulled by Steam Engine No. 40. The train will be operated by Engineer Paul Lewis, Road Foreman of Engines and Trainmaster of the Valley Railroad Company . . . not to mention the illustrated "railroad man" driving Engine No. 40 in *The Last Train*!

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www.essexsteamtrain.com

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Activities for *The Last Train* Book Signing event at Essex Steam Train on **Saturday, October 2nd** are:

- **Book Purchase** available in Essex Station Gift Shop all day, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
- **Book Purchase & Signing** will be held in the Oliver Jensen Gallery in River Valley Junction from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm.
- **Ride a vintage train pulled by Engine No. 40** at 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm and 3:30. (Optional Becky Thatcher Riverboat connection on first 3 trips.)
- **Photo opportunities** available with Engine No. 40 when train is in Essex Station (15 minutes prior each departure time).

“Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is delighted to host this Book Signing event for *The Last Train* says Robert Bell, President of The Valley Railroad Company. He continues, “The Last Train’s multi-generational appeal speaks directly to our visiting passenger audience. And, in an absolutely stunning format, *The Last Train* enhances Essex Steam Train & Riverboat’s devotion to enriching precious family time together, as well as our vision to preserve the heritage of the steam locomotive.”

Published by Roaring Brook Press

The Last Train will be released September 14th by **Roaring Brook Press**, an imprint of the **Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group**. Hardcover Picture Book, Nonfiction. Ages 6 and up. \$16.99. Roaring Brook press release attached.

Readalong published by Live Oak Media

A readalong version (hardcover and audio CD) of *The Last Train* will be released in September by **Live Oak Media**. CD will include bonus track with Gordon Titcomb’s musical recording of *The Last Train*. \$28.95

The Valley Railroad Company

Incorporated in 1969, The Valley Railroad Company opened the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat to the public in 1971. Essex Steam Train & Riverboat attracts 150,000 visitors a year and is one of Connecticut’s most vibrant tourist attractions. Tour goers enjoy a 2½ hour narrated steam train and riverboat journey through the scenic Connecticut River Valley. Special events include *Day Out With Thomas*, *Fright Train*, *Santa Special* and *North Pole Express*.

For more information and directions contact Essex Steam Train & Riverboat at 800.377.3987 or visit www.essexsteamtrain.com.

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