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Caboose Drives Cresson's Tourism Growth

Ice Cream and Rails a Cool Combination, says The Progress Fund

Cresson, PA - May 2, 2005 - Cresson, PA, has long been a proud rail town, but it's never seen a caboose quite like this one. Last weekend, the owners of longstanding Dunny's Pizza opened their new venture, a ice cream shop located in a 1927 New York Central Railroad caboose known as The I & C ConeRail Caboose.

"We had wanted to put an ice cream stand in Cresson, because we used to sell ice cream at our Yogurt Shop." says Diane Dunmyer, who along with her husband Michael runs Dunny's. When they heard about the sale of a caboose that had previously sold Ice cream, they realized it would be a perfect fit. "Cresson is a very big railroad town, and we thought it was a nice idea to have an ice cream store in a caboose," says Diane.

In fact, The I & C ConeRail Caboose is located a few blocks away from the Cresson Area Heritage Park, which features the popular N5C Caboose and a viewing platform for the Norfolk Southern Line. Many railroad fans stay in a bed & breakfast across the street from the new location of the Caboose.

The Dunmyers expect to hire four employees. They will offer three flavors of soft-serve ice cream, plus yogurt, banana splits, shaved ice and milkshakes.

When the Dunmyers sought financing for their new venture, a banker referred them to The Progress Fund. The Progress Fund loaned \$90,000 to finance the purchase of the caboose and two new ice cream machines. "Cresson is promoting its railway heritage, and the Dunmyers are in a great position to add both another attraction, and a promising business," says Loan Officer Jim Gonsman of The Progress Fund. "This investment is about opportunity, about heritage - and about delicious ice cream."

For further information or directions, call Diane Dunmyer at (814) 886-4350. For further information on financing for tourism-oriented businesses, call The Progress Fund at (724) 529-0384,

The Progress Fund is a vigorous non-profit loan fund that creates jobs and improves communities by providing entrepreneurial coaching and capital to small businesses in the travel & tourism industry. The Progress Fund serves 39 counties in Pennsylvania and the entire state of West Virginia. The Progress Fund was founded in 1997, and has loaned more than \$8.9 million to 104 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 735 jobs. The Progress Fund is an Equal Opportunity Lender. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law. Complaints of discrimination may be filed with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

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