

To me, it's all about providing better service and marketing.

For example, the early morning train from St. Marys to Toronto was cut. This was the one for commuters who live here. There is one later in the day that gets you into Toronto after 11, but that isn't like getting there at 8:30. If one train could have been cut, it should have been the latter one.

What I propose, though, is more innovative ideas to market VIA Rail. Why not put a Tim Horton's or a Starbuck's on a train? What about giving coupon books to people who take the train for restaurants at the final destination? How about giving a dollar off the next gas purchase? There are so many things that could be done. Free newspapers and magazines. All it takes is people with imagination who will think of ways of making travelling by train an experience, not just a means of transport.

We are at a time when we need to be expanding our rail network in the high-density areas, not cutting it.

John Stevens