

The SwitchStand



A publication of the Guelph Historical Railway Association, charity # BN 89131 4973 RR0001. For submissions, membership durd, change of address, contact: GHRA: PO Box 21054, 35 Harvard Rd Guelph, ON N1G 4T3. E-mail: [inquiry\[at\]ghra.ca](mailto:inquiry[at]ghra.ca). Price: Free. To join GHRA see details below.

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Welcome

To subscribe electronically to the Switchstand, send an e-mail to: switchstand-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

See railway news and COLOUR photographs on Pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter

Find us on Social Media and Yahoo – Search Guelph Historical Railway Association on Facebook and “Like” our page to stay up to date. Also join our e-mail list: <http://groups.yahoo.com> search “Guelph Historical Railway Association”. Newsletters will continue to be produced but have largely been replaced by online mediums.

See our club history and past newsletters at www.ghra.ca

Association News

Your support is appreciated – thank you for reading our newsletter. The GHRA is looking for members and volunteers – consider joining us today.

Dues reminder – We thank everyone who has already sent in 2017 dues – if you haven’t yet please mail yours in as soon as possible – our annual operating

costs (insurance, hardware, paint) depend on your support. Thank you.

A temporary home – In the Fall of 2014 the GHRA’s Caboose and Baggage car arrived at the corner of Elmira Rd and Independence Place on the North Industrial spur of the Guelph Junction Railway. We held our 2016 meeting of the GHRA at the Caboose and was well attended by nearly 25 people including a number of guests from out of town. We will continue to hold our June meetings at our Caboose and encourage visitors/potential members to see what we are all about.

The GHRA continues to look for a more permanent home – Arkell is still our preferred site but the Railway has been using Arkell for railway business, with Transformer moves for Ontario Hydro unloaded at a freshly leveled and ballasted roadway alongside the siding track. We are hopeful once the last Transformer move occurs we can use some space at this location pending railway and membership approval.

The GHRA’s primary goal is as an operating museum hence we wish an active location.

6167’s second Number Plate returned to Guelph – and donated to the GHRA

Rob Roy of Comox, BC, one of the original “Gang of 8” who restored and maintained 6167

paid the GHRA a visit in September 2016. At the meeting Roy told us how the 6167 was chosen, what efforts went into securing it for donation as well as the efforts over the years to maintain her in all her glory. Rob also donated a scrapbook of articles, information, train orders and specifications for 6167 which he had been keeping all these years. Most importantly, Rob mentioned how in the 80's the locomotive was being maintained by the City, the Gang of 8 was not permitted to maintain her and it was realized that 'appliances' and of course the Numberplate were at risk of being stolen. Rob had the numberplate removed and had kept it all these years. Rob presented the GHRA with this numberplate as a donation to our collection!

The number plate is made of thick 'World War II' plate steel likely fabricated in the Mimico shops in 1964 after the decision was made to return 6167 to excursion service. Our plate is painted in enamel with red and gold and wears the battle scars of years of excursion service as well as outdoor display in Guelph. The first, and original brass plate was removed at Mimico and could very well be in someone's private collection – we are actively seeking this plate out as it is the last yet to be returned to our fair city.

Our plate is now stored at our climate controlled Georgetown warehouse for safe keeping and we will Endeavour to work with the city to share in display of this wonderful item.



A close up of the plate – Sept 2016

Longtime member of GHRA now a Member of Parliament

David Graham, a longtime member of our group and former Board/Executive member (Vice President) who left for Ottawa to pursue his dreams a few years ago finally realized them by becoming a Member of Parliament in November 2015. To see what David is up to, visit his website at www.davidgraham.ca. David represents the riding of the Laurentides-Labelle in Quebec where he grew up and remains a staunch supporter of railways as a mode of transportation.

Doors Open Guelph to host CPR 436994

The Doors Open Guelph committee has graciously accepted our offer to put our Caboose on display. On April 22 2017 our caboose will be moved downtown for a public display – and we will need volunteers to help prepare and display our hard work. The GHRA was part of Doors Open Guelph in 2006, 2010, and 2013 and all three events saw over 1200 visitors to our equipment. We will start preparing the caboose for display as soon as winter breaks in mid to late March, anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to get in touch with us or attend our next meetings.

Local Railway news

Last car: On the Guelph Junction Railway, Owens Corning Fibreglass along York Rd in Guelph received their last cars of clay in June 2016 – and no more cars have been received to date. It's expected that this decades long customer has seen their last railcar. The plant remains open.

New traffic for OSR/GJR: PDI Liquids who purchased the former site of Huntsman Chemical along Victoria Rd in Guelph has had a substantial increase in business by cleaning cars owned by Safety-Kleen Inc of Breslau. Tank cars of waste oil and water are cleaned out before being sent all over North America resulting in an increase to the GJR of over 1,000 railcars per year.

As a result of this action, GJR has been operating using two crews most days of the week to ensure switches for customers in the

mornings and late evenings. Two crews usually meant two trains, but in the latter half of 2016 a relief crew would be sent up from Guelph Junction to take over from the morning crew using the same train avoiding the need to send two trains from the Junction.

Guelph sub CTC: The GEXR Guelph sub is now upgraded to Centralized Traffic Control, which will allow for capacity increases on our Guelph railway.

Go Transit: GO has increased service to four trains per day through Guelph in each direction, utilizing a new layover facility in Shirley Road in Kitchener to store trains. With these additions, the Guelph sub sees upwards of 18 movements a day through town.

New Motive power on Goderich-Exeter: The GEXR has received three new engines in the latter half of 2016: Re-assigned from the QGRY, GP38-2 2008 now makes daily appearances in Guelph based out of Kitchener.

Re-assigned from the SLQ in Quebec, former GP40X 3806 (mother) and daughter (control cab) 806.

Sent away: Longtime GEXR engines GP-9 RLK 4001 was sent to the SOR in Hamilton, and GP38-2 GEXR 3821 was sent away for rebuild and may yet return in new paint and a new number. LLPX 2210, a leased GP38-2 suffered a major mechanical failure and was also sent away for repair or scrap at the leisure of the owner. Sister unit LLPX 2236 remains in active service.

100 years – April 14 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Toronto Suburban Railway which terminated in Guelph.

AGM Notice – Our 2015 Annual General Membership meeting to receive

financial statements for that fiscal year will be held on December 12 2016. As it takes us time to prepare our financial reports from the 2015 fiscal year, we generally hold our meetings a few months after closing of the fiscal year to allow us time to prepare and file our reports with the CRA. This is also the time to join the Board of Directors and discuss any other membership business as required.

Calendar of events/meetings

November 14 2016, December 12 2016

January 9 2017, February 13 2017

March 13 2017, April 10 2017

Event: Saturday April 22 2017 – Doors Open Guelph – 10 AM to 4 PM Volunteers Required – John Galt Park, Guelph.

May 8 2017

June 12 2017 - Meeting at our CABOOSE rain or shine – located at Elmira Rd near Independence Place – by Plaza. Park in the plaza parking lot)

July 10 2017

August – Date TBD – GHRA Annual BBQ –

All meetings the second Monday of the month except Holidays (+1 week) at 130 MacDonnell St. downtown Guelph, across from GO station. Visitors are always welcome.

To join the GHRA: Send in your dues according to the schedule below to our mailing address – include your e-mail address please.

GHRA Membership dues

Junior: \$25/annual (under age 25)

Regular: \$50/annual (ages 25-64)

Senior: \$40/annual (ages 65+)

Membership dues and any donations above and beyond are tax deductible. (The GHRA is a Registered Charity since 1994 # BN 89131 4973 RR0001)

GHRA Executive & Positions 2016/7

Trevor Blatherwick (Vice President), Stephen Host (President/Treasurer) Eric Repaci (Board member/Restoration Committee), Jacob Patterson – Archivist and sales/fundraising coordinator.

Photo Corner - Send submissions by e-mail to inquiry [a t] ghra.ca or by postal mail.



Members of the GHRA attending our September 2016 meeting. Rob Roy (Fourth from right) presenting the number plate to the GHRA. Yes, the plate is that heavy. Not Shown: Bill Purdy who was the photographer ☺

The GHRA actively invites those with Railway memorabilia to consider donating to our collection. Contact us for more details.



GEXR Train 431 passing by the former 1960's freight shed (at right, not shown) in Guelph, Ontario. September 24 2016, Jacob Patterson.