

the SwitchStand



A quarterly publication of the Guelph Historical Railway Association, charity # BN 89131 4973 RR0001. For submissions, membership issues, change of address, contact: GHRA: 5101 Jones Baseline R.R. 2, Guelph, Ontario. N1H 6H8. E-mail: [info \[at\] ghra.ca](mailto:info[at]ghra.ca). Price: Free. To join GHRA see details in newsletter below.

October 2007

vol.3, issue 4

Welcome

Non-members are welcome to subscribe to our newsletter and receive your copy automatically, as soon as it is released!. To subscribe, send an e-mail to:

switchstand-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Association News

Reminder: Mailing Address Change
Guelph Historical Railway Association
5101 Jones Baseline R.R. 2, Guelph,
Ontario. N1H 6H8

November Annual General Meeting

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held on November 12 2007. This is an important meeting where we discuss our plans for the next year, review yearly financial statements, and elect the Board of Directors. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Vacancy on Board of Directors

The GHRA Board of Directors is interested in seeking a member to join us in conducting our business. If this interests you, please contact Steve Host for nomination at our November AGM.

Dues for 2008

This is the first of two reminders for 2008 dues. As agreed upon by the membership, dues are now \$50 per annum. You may bring your dues in person at any regular meeting, or by mailing a cheque to the club mailing address. Your continued support of the GHRA is very much appreciated. Tax receipts will continue to be issued in full for dues paid.

GHRA baseball caps for sale! \$10

Buy a GHRA "Baseball Cap" for \$10 and support your club! Hats are one size fits all, are an attractive 'Canadian Pacific maroon' color, modeled after our Caboose. It sports an embossed GHRA logo on the front. To buy one, visit us at one of our meetings. For mail orders, send a cheque for \$10 plus \$5 shipping, with your mailing address to "5101 Jones Baseline R.R. 2, Guelph, Ontario". Allow up to 6 weeks for delivery.



A picture of the GHRA baseball cap.

Our caboose needs work, and we need your help!

If using your hands is what you like to do, consider joining us at the next caboose work day. Contact a member of the Technical Committee if you wish to volunteer (see page 4 of this newsletter). Duties include painting and woodworking. Occasional metal-working is also needed. If you have tools, experience, or want to learn, do not hesitate to volunteer. We especially need assistance from those with railway experience to continue to mechanically maintain our caboose.

CNR Steam locomotive 6167

The GHRA is putting out a call for Steam Locomotive Experts interested in volunteering in the Spring for 6167 restoration work. Supervised by the City of Guelph, we need experts willing to donate their time to ensure accurate restoration by contractor firms. If you are interested in helping to restore an important piece of Canada's railway heritage, contact a GHRA board member.

Local Railway News

VIA Rail funding announcement

In October, the Federal Government announced \$691.9 million in new funding for VIA Rail. Details of what will be improved are few and far between, but in the press release it noted:

- LRC car refurbishing program
- F40 rebuild program
- Quebec City-Windsor corridor bottleneck eliminations and improvements

For an example of the first rebuild, prototype F40 locomotive, #6400, see the April issue of the Switchstand.

CPR and CNR announce acquisitions

In September 2007, Canadian Pacific Railway purchased the DM&E Railroad in the USA. The DM&E is the largest

regional railroad in North America, with connections to all major class 1 railways. This could give CP future access to the Powder River basin coal deposits in Wyoming once construction of about 280 miles of new railway is constructed.

Not to be outdone, Canadian National Railway announced agreement to purchase the EJ&E Railroad in Chicago. This purchase gives CN ownership of alternate routes through Chicago, allowing for faster transit times for traffic between Vancouver, Chicago, Halifax and New Orleans corridors.

Both transactions require approval of the United States Surface Transportation Board which has yet to occur.

Go Transit to study expansion of train service to Guelph and K-W

Go Transit has announced they will study the expansion of GO Train service to Guelph and Kitchener. An environmental assessment will go to tender in Spring 2008, which is the first stage of this potential expansion of service. Any expansion of service is still many years away. Many readers will note Guelph once had GO Train service from 1990 to 1993.

More tragedy – Operation Lifesaver could have saved these lives

There were far too many needless accidents in the past 4 months on area railways.

July 29: A woman was killed after trespassing on area railway tracks just east of the Hanlon Expressway near Paisley. The woman was using the railway tracks as a shortcut.

August 28: A man was killed walking along the tracks east of Cityview drive.

Sept 13: A man escaped with his life after disobeying a railway crossing signal and being hit by a train at the

intersection of Woolwich and Macdonnell streets. The man was charged.

Citizens of Guelph are reminded not to trespass on railway property, as it is dangerous, and could lead to injury or death. In addition, trains are unable to stop for you at railway crossings.

These accidents are preventable.

Operation Lifesaver

(<http://www.operationlifesaver.ca/>)

is looking for volunteers, especially to speak at schools. If you would like to help, contact the GHRA.

Steam engine returns to Waterloo

Essex Terminal Railway #9, built in 1923 has returned to Waterloo for steam excursions on the Waterloo Central Railway. Excursion trains run Thursdays and Saturdays, with occasional special runs scheduled, including a Halloween train planned for late October. For more information, visit www.steam-train.org
For a picture of #9 in Waterloo, see photo corner on page 4.

No steam tour for 2007

Unfortunately, due to the high cost of insurance, there is no steam tour outside of Waterloo Region in 2007.

About the GHRA

Upcoming meeting/event schedule

October 15 2007 – Regular Meeting
November 12 2007 – **Annual General Meeting**
December 10 2007 – Regular Meeting
January 14 2008 – Regular Meeting

Where we meet: Regular meetings are held at the Cooperators building, 130 Macdonnell St, downtown Guelph. Start time 7 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

To join/support the GHRA: send \$50 annual dues, payable to “Guelph Historical Railway Association” to our mailing address at top of newsletter, or visit us at one of our upcoming meetings.

Membership dues are tax deductible. (Registered Charity # BN 89131 4973 RR0001)
Visit our website, www.ghra.ca for an up-to-date listing of our meetings and events, and to view our online photo gallery.

GHRA Executive 2007

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GHRA Committees

Technical Committee – Peter Shergold

Caboose and baggage car maintenance and restoration, planning, and work-day coordination. Contact Peter to join in at the next scheduled work day.

**Support CNR 6167 Restoration!
Buy a button!**



Show your support for CNR 6167
Purchase your CNR 6167 buttons at any
GHRA regular meeting, or in person at
Guelph Civic Museum.

Photo Corner

Send submissions by e-mail to info [a t] ghra.ca or by postal mail to our mailing address.



Essex Terminal Railway Steam Locomotive #9 at Waterloo, Ontario, October 2007. #9 is owned by SOLRS and will provide steam hauled train tours. Visit www.steam-train.org for schedules and additional information. Dave Young photo.



Loading ballast for new GJR track -- Guelph, August 14 2007. ©2007 steve@hostovsky.com

Image of new Guelph Junction Railway track construction – loading ballast - Steve Host Photo.