

The SwitchStand



A quarterly publication of the Guelph Historical Railway Association

For questions, membership issues, or how to join, contact: GHRA, 516 Kortright Rd W, Guelph, N1G 3Z1

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Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of *The Switchstand*, the new quarterly newsletter of the GHRA. *The SwitchStand* will be our method to pass on association and local railway news, events, and articles of interest to our membership.

Although this is not the first newsletter our organization has sent out over the years, we are hoping to replace our recent practice of mailing minutes and business meeting agendas with something more palatable.

We hope you enjoy the new format! If you have any feedback, feel free to contact a member of the 2005 executive listed in this document.

2005 dues are due

If you have not yet sent in your dues for 2005, please mail them in or bring them to the next regular meeting. This is the last call for dues for 2005. Dues are \$40 yearly. Make cheques payable to "Guelph Historical Railway Association". Our mailing address is at the top of this newsletter.

Regular Meeting Schedule

Regular meetings are held every second Monday monthly, 7 PM Cooperator's Insurance building 130 MacDonell Street downtown Guelph.

January 10, 2005
February 21, 2005
March 14, 2005
April 11, 2005

New club structure

A new year is upon us, and with this lots of change has been brought to our organization.

We have made these changes to bring back more entertainment and fun into our organization, as well as provide a structure more conducive to the growth and management of our association.

At the November 2004 business meeting we voted and approved a restructuring of our organization into a Board of Directors and regular membership as per our by-laws of incorporation.

The board meets monthly (first Monday of every month) to discuss business only. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings, contact a board member if you wish to attend. In the last couple of months, the board has working out the foundation for our new structure, and we have begun looking into several items for future events, however it is too early to make any announcements at this time. Stay tuned.

We still have regular meetings of all members on the second Monday of every month, but instead of discussing business for the entire meeting, only 30 minutes is reserved for this topic. Business will start at 7 PM sharp, and at 7:30 we will have entertainment for the remainder. We wish to have guest speakers, slide shows, artefact discussion, movies, or any other topical content.

2005 Board of Directors

President: Steve Host

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Secretary: Chris van der Heide

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Board Member: David Graham

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Vacancies

The following vacancies are available to be filled in our new organization:

Technical Committee:

We need member(s) who are willing to be the voice of our equipment (such as Caboose) when repairs, improvements, or modifications need to be done. The membership will still help with any work that is to be done, however this committee will recommend to the board what must be done, and if any help from the membership is required to perform the job.

This position does not require you join the Board of Directors, therefore any members are eligible to fill it.

Board of Directors: 3 vacancies

Our bylaws allow for up to 8 members on the board, currently we have 5. If you found our old business meetings entertaining, you may find it interesting to join our Board of Directors and meet with us to discuss business related activities.

Legal: 1 vacancy

We know this is a long-shot, but if anyone knows a lawyer who would be willing to advise us pro bono, this position is available at present.

For all positions above, contact a board member if you have questions, or are willing to fill them.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are held the first Monday of each month and are business meetings only. Contact a board member if you are interested in attending.

Local Railway News

GEXR invests in Guelph railroads:

The Goderich and Exeter Railway (GEXR) has recently brought a train of rail to the Guelph subdivision for replacement of old bolted rail from the early 1950's with welded rail capable of higher speeds for freight and passenger trains. The rail has been dropped between Guelph and Breslau alongside the existing track, but has not yet been installed.

New customer for Guelph Junction Railway:

Ontario Southland's GJR operation has a new customer on their rail line. In the last couple months, Rocket Lumber has opened for business at Guelph Junction (Campbellville, Ontario). This is another win for the Guelph Junction Railway, which is owned by the City of Guelph.

Now the bad news:

Huntsman Chemical has announced that they are shutting down their Guelph operation in late 2005. This plant is serviced by the GJR.