

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

Just a reminder that this is the time of year to submit your dues for 2007. Dues are still \$40, and cheques should be made payable to "Guelph Historical Railway Association". Our mailing address is listed in this newsletter at the top. We thank you for your support.

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

switchstand-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Canadian Pacific Railway's 2nd Guelph Station has been lost and found!

One of our keen-eyed members, John McQuaig brought to our attention an ad in the newspaper advertising bricks for sale from the Guelph Junction Railway Station. Further investigations proved that this was true and we now know the final resting place of Guelph's second Canadian Pacific Railway station.

In the 1980's, the CP station was dismantled to make way for apartment buildings. It was dismantled brick by brick in anticipation that it would be

rebuilt elsewhere. We are told there were 50,000 bricks in total that had come from this process.

The bricks were originally sold to the City of Cambridge whom was to use them for a museum. By 1992 funding had ran out, and the bricks sat idle. The City then offered them for sale and they were acquired by this person. This person kept them until he used 35,000 of them in his home located in Blandford-Blenheim township. The remaining 15,000 bricks were offered for sale in August 2006. Also, the floor joists, etc from the Guelph station were also used in the building of his home.

The address of this building is Lot 9, Concession 12, Blandford-Blenheim township, Fire number 907259

The owner of the property has since moved to a new location which explains the sale of the bricks after all this time.

This puts to rest the question to where our station had ended up.

Your ad here!

Sponsor the GHRA! For a Suggestion donation of \$100, your company or organization will receive advertisements for a year in our newsletters, mentions on our website and at our public events! Each newsletter receives over 250 views. Contact Steve at 519-836-7186 for details.

Club News

2006 Annual General Meeting, November 13 2006, 7:30 PM

The GHRA's annual General Meeting is the occasion where you get a report on our clubs financial performance, and the board will present our vision for the upcoming year. Also, any nominations or changes in the Board of Directors will be voted by the membership of the club.

Traditionally, this is also the meeting where most members pay their dues for the next year (2007).

If you are interested in helping direct the day to day business and maintenance activities of the GHRA, the Board would love to have you join us. Consider nominating yourself. If you cannot make the AGM and are interested in joining the board, please call Steve at 519-836-7186.

GHRA Barbecue, August 2006

The GHRA had a very successful Barbecue event in August at Paul Tatham's place over in Guelph township. The event was well attended by 18 of our members and significant others, and everyone had a great time. All the wives were quite amused by the mass of 'railfans' darting to the overpass at mile 44.8 Guelph Sub when GEXR 431 approached.

And we all surely enjoyed the copious amounts of desserts (many of which were home made) brought by all for the potluck portion of the meal.

The turnout was great despite the short notice in the newsletter, and we will make certain to announce our next August barbeque well in advance for 2007.

Union Station tour rescheduled

Unfortunately, due to emergency health issues, our tour guide, Derek Boles had to cancel the tour scheduled in early September. We will be rescheduling this in the spring as agreed with Derek, so stay tuned to this newsletter for more information.

2005 financial results & 2007 budget

Our 2005 balance sheet, 2005 statement of receipts and disbursements, and a budget for 2007 will be distributed to all members with this newsletter.

Dues for 2008 to go up

Due to our financial situation, the board of directors, and the membership of the club agreed to raise dues to \$50/yearly **starting in 2008. Dues are still \$40 for 2007**, however any person willing to donate the extra \$10 will receive a tax receipt for the full amount above \$40.

Insurance reduction in 2007

As mentioned in the July 2006 newsletter the GHRA board has been looking to raise our financial profile. One method mentioned was to investigate a reduction in our insurance premium.

The GHRA board of directors is proud to report we have managed to meet this goal. Our yearly rate will go from \$1550 down to \$1080 without a reduction in our coverage. This was possible by obtaining competitive price quotes, and we will most likely be switching insurance companies. This will go a long way to ensuring we will have funds to put towards restoration of our equipment and the preservation of our railway heritage. The change in insurance will be effective November 11 2006.

Local Railway News

Orangeville gets a new train station!

A very rare occurrence these days, Orangeville Brampton Railway and the Credit Valley Explorer are building a new train station and platform on the site of the burnt-down ex CP Bunkhouse.

The Orangeville Citizen mentioned this is the first new station construction in Orangeville in exactly 100 years. Funding for the station building came from \$100,000 insurance, railway, and 'heritage sources' (The Orangeville Banner)

The station will be used as a waiting room and ticket sales location for the Credit Valley Explorer, as well as offices for Cando Contracting who operate the line.

John St Roundhouse news

The City of Toronto in a press release stated they plan to revitalize the roundhouse, and the plans include a railway museum and restoration of the missing turntable. They also plan to set aside part of the roundhouse for development purposes, such as expansion of the Steamwhistle brewery.

A second steam locomotive in Guelph?

It would appear that according to an article in 'Canadian Rail' Dave Gould of Guelph has brought his privately owned narrow gauge Steam Locomotive to Guelph. The unit is known as "Detroit Yukon Mining 0-4-0 #1" He is currently restoring the locomotive cosmetically.

Rail Grinder makes a temporary home in Guelph

In late August The Loram rail grinding train RG-309 made a temporary home at the former Safetrans facility while they performed maintenance on their

equipment. During the 3 week period they were in Guelph, all their units were cleaned, and some even repainted. Also, they managed to grind the Goderich and Exeter Railway, which is among the first times anyone has heard of this happening in a long time. Rail grinding is performed to minimize contact between the rails and wheels, to reduce rail wear and friction, which should increase efficiencies. The grinder train left town Monday August 8 and traveled the CN mainline north out of Toronto and would be working en-route.

Guelph Junction Railway news items

In an August Guelph Mercury article, Tom Sagaskie, general manager of the Railway mentioned there was a loss of \$40,000 in 2005 versus a profit of \$150,000 in 2004. It was also mentioned that significant upgrades to the line would be required in order to handle 286,000 pound cars. In a Guelph Tribune article, Tom was on record saying that in 2005 they handled "record freight volume".

Canadian Pacific Holiday Train 2006 schedule, From CPR's website:

Monday, December 4

Hamilton, Ont. - 8-8:30 p.m. - Western approach to Kinnear Yard opposite Gage Park.

Tuesday, December 5

Cambridge, Ont. - 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Former Galt station, 10 Malcolm St.

Woodstock, Ont. - 7:45-8:45 p.m. - CPR main line, 199 Winnett St.

London, Ont. - 9:30-10:15 p.m. - CPR yard on Central Avenue at Elizabeth St.

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. Suggested donation \$3.

VIA train hits Van, October 24

The Guelph Tribune noted on October 24 VIA # 89 hit a Dodge Caravan which was stuck on the tracks at Silvercreek and Paisley. Keen readers will note that there is in fact no grade crossing there, and the van would have had to break through wire and wooden barriers to end up on the tracks. No one was injured in the crash.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

November 13 2006 – Annual General Meeting

December 11 2006 – Regular meeting

January 8 2007 – Regular meeting

February 12 2007 – Regular meeting

Meetings are held at the Cooperators building, 130 Macdonnel St, downtown Guelph. Start time 7 PM.

"Spotlight on Heritage"

February 17 2007, 9:30 - 5:00 at Stone Road Mall. Volunteers will be required to attend to our table.

Photo of the Month



Photo depicts the Canadian National Ex GTR Station Guelph, 1922. It's amazing how little of this station has changed over the past 84 years. Photo Submitted by Susan Wright, South Fredericksburgh Heritage Committee. <http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/>

Visit our website, www.ghra.ca for an up-to-date listing of our meetings and events.

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