

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: [inquiry \[at\] ghra.ca](mailto:inquiry[at]ghra.ca). Price: Free. To join GHRA see details below.

July 2008

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Welcome

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

Welcome Steve Anderson as our newest member!

Association News

John Galt Day – Monday Aug 4

Our restored 1941 Canadian Pacific caboose will be on display for John Galt Day, Monday August 4 from 12 to 4 PM. The location is John Galt Park, adjacent to the River Run Centre. The tourist train also plans to be operating on this date with details to be announced. John Galt Day also involves 6167 restoration committee and many other Guelph heritage groups and includes activities for all ages. Bring your family, tell your friends, and do not forget to volunteer with us as we will need your help showing the public our equipment and facilitating the event.

GHRA Annual Barbecue

August 10 2008 - \$6 person

Bring your family to enjoy the outdoors at our GHRA annual barbecue, 5101 Jones Baseline Road, RR2, Guelph. Located just off highway 7 east of

Guelph. Snacks and barbecue (hamburgers, sausage, and pop) will be provided. Start time 3 PM. Due to the GHRA barbecue, there will be no regular meeting in August.

Caboose restoration update and work dates for July

In May and June GHRA members began replacing a section of rotted plywood on a side of the caboose. As of July, we have begun work of repairing the substructure. Completion of the repair, replacement of the plywood and application of a coat of paint needs to be made by John Galt Day.

The next scheduled weekend work date is July 26, 9 AM. Weekdays and weeknights are also available and occur depending on the availability of those who volunteer. The location of all Caboose work dates is Chemtura Chemical, 120 Huron St in Guelph.

If you can spare a weekday, weeknight, or evening call Bruce Lowe at 519-821-3828 or Steve Host at 519-836-7186. No prior experience is required to help.

How you can help us restore our historic railway equipment

GHRA members work on the caboose once or twice a month throughout the spring, summer, and early fall. If you can help with painting, woodworking, metalworking, have railroad mechanical experience, or just have a pair of hands and want to help contact the Technical committee to get involved. If you represent a business or just want to make a financial contribution, your donation to our restoration fund is tax deductible. A recognition program is in effect depending on the amount donated.

Local Railway News

Guelph Junction Express – still on track but slightly delayed

The Guelph Junction Express, owned and operated by Destiny Tours International using train crew and locomotives supplied by Ontario Southland Railway is still on track for launch this summer.

The GJE owners are hard at work installing the required hardware, preparing the proper amenities, and training their staff for a launch date as soon as reasonably possible.

When available, tickets will be sold on the Internet at www.guelphjunctionexpress.ca as well as in person at the Destiny Tours office, 727 Woolwich Street in Guelph.

People who wish to volunteer for the train are encouraged to contact the GHRA to find out how you can help

GHRA Baseball Caps, \$10



Please allow 4 weeks for delivery.

Purchase a GHRA Baseball cap – available at our meetings for \$10 each. Or, order by mail and pay only \$5 shipping. Mail cheque to 5101 Jones Baseline Rd, Guelph, N1H 6H8.

Guelph Junction Railway improves service to local industries

Starting in June 2008, the Guelph Junction Railway, through operators Ontario Southland began offering a Guelph based locomotive and crew in addition to their regular service. Now there are two freight trains per day servicing local industries on the Guelph Junction, as well as customers at the north end who receive service from both Ontario Southland and Goderich-Exeter railways.

GO announces Guelph GO train expansion study

In May of 2008, GO Transit announced the commencement of an environmental assessment and feasibility study of an extension of GO Train service to Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo. The study is expected to be completed by March 2009. Some GHRA members may recall Guelph's previous GO train service which was inaugurated in 1990 and ended in 1993, which provided one train departure per day.

Royal Canadian Pacific luxury train trip cancelled

The Royal Canadian Pacific luxury train, which was scheduled to come to Guelph Junction in June in fact did not run. The run was cancelled a few weeks prior to departure.

Heritage Corner

Did you know Guelph has boasted at least seven railway station locations? Aside from the existing VIA Rail (former CNR/GTR) station built in 1911, the following is a quick summary of the other six station locations:

- The Priory, Guelph's first building built by John Galt in 1827 was used as a Canadian Pacific station upon completion of the Guelph Junction Railway in 1888. Its location was near the site of the current River Run Centre. This building was replaced in

the 1920's with a newer, more modern station.

- The newer CPR Station was built at Eramosa road in Guelph beside the Speed River. It was dismantled in the 1980's and was not replaced.
- Going further back into the early 20th century, there was a station located at what was known as Guelph Junction, near Alma St and the CNR railway line. This station was used for passengers transferring from the Hamilton-Fergus-Palmerston line to/from the Toronto-Stratford-London line. In later years, these transfers were moved to the downtown CNR station.
- The Great Western Railway (GWR) had a station near today's Edinburgh road and Paisley (closer to Alma) from 1857 to 1880. This station was inconvenient to passengers as it was located at the outskirts of town.
- To solve this problem, the GWR built a new railway line and a new station by Goldie's Mill in 1880. This station could better compete with the Grand Trunk's downtown Station. However two years later the Grand Trunk gained control of the Great Western and this station was sold to Goldie's mill as it was no longer needed.
- The current VIA station, built by the Grand Trunk in 1911 was not the first near this location. Just east of this (near the end of the current passenger platform) was the original station site which was demolished around 1911.

Only the VIA Rail (ex CN ex Grand Trunk) station survives in Guelph. For a photo of the 1880-1882 Great Western Station at Goldies mill, see this months Photo Corner.

About the GHRA

Upcoming meeting/event schedule

July 14 2008 – Regular Meeting

August 4 2008 – John Galt Day – GHRA caboose on display

August 10 2008 – GHRA Annual Barbecue – Cost \$6.

(No regular meeting scheduled in August due to BBQ)

September 8 2008 – Regular Meeting

October 20 2008 – Regular Meeting

Where we meet: Regular meetings are held at the Cooperators building, 130 Macdonnel St, downtown Guelph. Start time 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

To join 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)

For more about the GHRA including our up-to-date meeting, event, and work date schedule visit our website, www.ghra.ca

GHRA Executive 2008

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GHRA Committees

Technical Committee – Peter Shergold, Bruce Lowe

Fundraising Committee – Brian Blatherwick, Brian Dickey, Bruce Lowe

Website Committee – Chris

Vanderheide, Steve Host

Legal – position open

Photo Corner

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



A forgotten station – this excerpt of a postcard from 1881 from the City of Guelph Library collection shows a train beside a peculiar looking building in the foreground at Goldies Mill – the 1880-1882 Great Western Railway station. This station is reported to have been owned by the railway for only two years until the Grand Trunk merged with the Great Western – where Grand Trunk preferred its downtown Guelph location and made this station redundant.



This is a photo of a restored CNR school car (former #15089) residing in Clinton, Ontario. This car is on display from Victoria Day weekend to end of September and carries no admission fee. Photo by Trevor Blatherwick on May 26 2008. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.schoolcar.ca/>