

# 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 2008**

**vol.4, issue 4**

## Welcome

To subscribe electronically to the Switchstand, send an e-mail to: [switchstand-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:switchstand-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## Association News

Welcome new member Mike Krycek!

### **Correction notice:**

In the last newsletter, the October meeting was erroneously slated for October 13, which is Thanksgiving Monday. The correct date is October 20.

### **New membership levels**

The Board of Directors has approved the creation of two new membership levels: Junior and Senior. This is designed to entice younger members to join the group, as well as help Senior members who may be on fixed incomes. Annual dues and age limits are as follows:

**Junior:** \$25, non voting, under age 25  
**Regular:** \$50 (age 25 to 64)  
**Senior:** \$40, age 65 or older, full member.

A reminder that dues are due for 2009 -- you may pay your dues according to the above schedule. To remit your dues, you may pay at any regular meeting, or by mail to our mailing address. A reminder

that your dues, and any donations above and beyond the regular dues rate is also tax deductible.

### **Fundraising announcement**

We are proud to announce that the Fundraising committee has raised \$5000 which is to go towards the further restoration of CPR caboose 436994. The Board of Directors has earmarked these funds ONLY for CP 436994 restoration, and not for any other purpose according to the wishes of the donors. A big thank you to the fundraising committee for their hard work and success!

### **Canadian Tire Money**

The GHRA will collect Canadian Tire Money donations for use as a float for restoration supplies. Please direct all donations to the Treasurer or to our mailing address.

### **6167 Lapel pins for sale**

In other fundraising news, the GHRA has expanded our souvenir list. One such item is the attractive 6167 Lapel Pin seen below:



6167 lapel pins - \$7 – order by mail at our mailing address and include \$3 shipping per piece, or pick-up at a regular meeting

As well as this fundraising effort, we have begun an effort to sell souvenirs on the Guelph Junction Express tourist train, and on our website. A souvenir menu can be found on our website where potential customers are able to fill out a form and mail in their order.

### **John Galt Day**

Over 2,000 persons attended John Galt Day festivities. Our caboose and handcar rides were popular throughout the day. In total, the GHRA raised \$437.93 through donations, hat and 6167 lapel pin sales.

The GHRA would like to thank all volunteers who came out to make this day a success, as well as to the Ontario Southland Railway, Guelph Junction Railway, and the John Galt Day organizing committee for including us in the event. We also would like to thank Chemtura for their hospitality in hosting our caboose work dates, and finally to the Palmerston Railroad Heritage Museum Association for lending us their handcars.

### **Caboose restoration update**

The GHRA would also like to thank all the volunteers who spent time in the restoration of CPR caboose 436994 during the spring and summer months. A splendid job by all members involved.

### **Work Completed:**

- Removal and replacement of a large section of rotten plywood
- Repainted handrails, steps
- Replaced some window framing
- Coat of paint – with color more accurate than previous
- Cleaned wheels
- New Plexiglas windows
- New security features to deter intruders
- Annual wasp nest removal
- Cleaning of interior, floors

- Established a work-log book to keep track of work done

One item we did not manage to get done on time is CPR Block lettering, but we have obtained stencils to complete this work. As well, we would like to replace the window that we had to remove in order to make the necessary plywood repairs. There is also some woodworking required on the interior where we had discovered some of the wood has a bit of water damage.

Some photos to illustrate the work that was done.

### **Before**



GHRA caboose undergoing surgery to replace badly rotted plywood – April 2008

### **After**



CPR caboose ready for John Galt Day – August 2008

### **How you can help in our restorations**

We are looking for members with woodworking, window framing, and railway mechanical experience to help us in our efforts. Let us know how you can help.

### **Local Railway News**

#### **Guelph Junction Express – official launch and grand opening ceremony (with photos in Photo Corner)**

On Saturday September 20, 2008 the Guelph Junction Express was officially launched. In attendance at the event were officials from Destiny Tours and Guelph Junction Express, the Manager and Board of Directors of the Guelph Junction Railway, the Mayor of the

City of Guelph, various City Councilors, and all of the candidates for the 2008 federal election. Also in attendance were some GHRA members and volunteers to assist with the train, and the fine crew members of Ontario Southland Railway. Local media was also in attendance. After a brief speech from the Guelph Junction Railway president, Ben Boehm, Rita Carroll and John Carroll both of Guelph Junction Express said a few words. Following which, the Mayor of the City of Guelph, Karen Farbridge inaugurated the train with a bottle of champagne. (For photos of this event, see photo corner).

VIPs were then invited to board the train for a leisurely ride to Guelph Junction and back, complete with hors d'oeuvres, and beverages served by Platters Catering.

During the speeches, John Carroll gave quite a mention of thanks to the Guelph Historical Railway Association for the hard work we put in throughout the start-up period, but especially was overwhelmed at our enthusiastic support in the early days removing the seats and cleaning up the cars back in April and May.

The GHRA and GJE are accepting volunteers for the Guelph Junction Express. GHRA Members will assist with boarding, as well the GHRA will sell souvenirs on board with proceeds going to the GHRA and our partners, currently GJE and the Locomotive 6167 Restoration Committee. Please schedule your volunteer dates with Paul Tatham whose contact information is found at the end of this newsletter.

For tickets for the train, and scheduling information, please visit their website at <http://www.guelphjunctionexpress.ca>

### **Guelph Junction Railway a major success story**

At the launch of the Guelph Junction Express tourist train, officials from GJR were on hand to inaugurate the event and give a speech. One statistic that was mentioned is the GJR has sustained 17% annual traffic growth since OSR took over from CPR in 1998.

### **GO Trains may return by 2011**

At the first GO Transit Public Information Centre held at the Italian Canadian Club in Guelph on September 23, GO Transit indicated service to Guelph could return as early as 2011. As well, this project is the first fast tracked environmental assessment project under the new Ontario Transit EA rules. Station, track improvements (CTC), and storage yards are expected to be built to make this possible. New stations have been proposed at Downtown, Lafarge (Guelph West), and Watson Road (Guelph east). In addition to the Guelph stations, additional stops are proposed in Kitchener and Acton. For more on this, visit <http://www.gokw.org>

### **VIA Rail planning “significant improvements” to the North Mainline**

According to Branchline Magazine, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Record Newspaper, starting in 2009 VIA rail is planning major upgrades to the north mainline. Included are track improvements, signaling (CTC) and station improvements. It has been reported the Guelph VIA parking lot is also to be expanded. Details on what is to be done are thin as the plans have not yet been finalized, but an announcement is expected before the end of the year.

### **Locomotive 6167 update**

Good news for fans of #6167 – asbestos removal is well under way under the charge of Power Environmental Contractors. The locomotive is covered by a large tarp like structure complete with lighting to assist workers. Plans call for the replacement of some

#### **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.

parts that have rotted beyond re-use and painting of the unit once everything is back in one piece. Unknown at this time is where the locomotive may be moved to. The present locomotive site is the planned location of an integrated Transit hub scheduled for completion in 2011.

### **Canadian Pacific Spirit Train**

Canadian Pacific's mobile ambassador for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Games, The Canadian Pacific Spirit Train will be visiting our area in early October. The event is free, and will showcase local, Aboriginal, and national performers, as well as Olympic and Paralympics athletes. The closest stop to our area will be on October 13, 2008, from 1 to 8 PM at the Cooksville GO Station in Mississauga, Ontario.

### **About the GHRA**

#### **Upcoming meeting/event schedule:**

**October 20 2008** – Regular Meeting

**November 10 2008** – Special presentation by Rod Clarke, author "Narrow gauge through the bush". If you own a copy of the book, you may bring it to be autographed by the author. If you do not own a copy, you may purchase yours at the following locations: The Bookshelf downtown Guelph, Credit Valley Railway in Streetsville, and Reflections Bookstore in Fergus. As well copies will be made available to members and visitors at the presentation.

**December 8 2008** – Annual General Meeting

**January 12 2009** – Special Presenter Steve Thorning, presenting to the GHRA on the Guelph Radial Railway (Streetcar) system.

#### **Looking ahead:**

**February 2008** – Spotlight on Heritage, Stone Road Mall.

**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 in your dues according to the schedule below to our mailing address. Include your mailing and e-mail address if you have one. Alternatively, you may fill out a form available on our website.

#### **2009 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 # 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](http://www.ghra.ca)

#### **GHRA Executive 2008**

**President: Steve Host**

(519) 836-7186

steve [at] hostovsky.com

**Vice-President: Peter Shergold**

(519) 824-8254

sshergold [at] sympatico.ca

**Treasurer: Paul Tatham**

(519) 830-3144

ptatham [at] uoguelph.ca

**Secretary: Chris van der Heide**

(519) 993-6344

chris [at] vanderheide.ca

**Bruce Lowe**

(519) 821-3828

pinetree07 [at] sympatico.ca

**Trevor Blatherwick**

viarailfan [at] gmail.com

#### **GHRA Committees**

**Technical Committee** – Peter Shergold, Bruce Lowe, Brian Blatherwick

**Fundraising Committee** – Brian Blatherwick, Trevor Blatherwick, Brian Dickey, Bruce Lowe

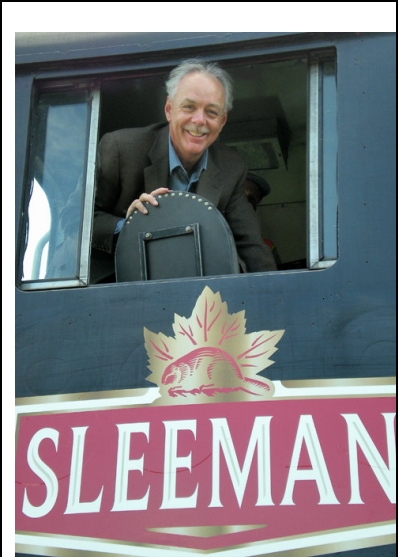
**Website Committee** – Chris Vanderheide, Steve Host, David Graham

**Tourist Train Volunteer Coordination** – Paul Tatham - (519) 830-3144

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



OSR 503 and GHRA ex CPR Caboose 436994 being returned to Chemtura on the Fiberglass spur following John Galt Day Festivities. GHRA member and OSR part time employee Paul Tatham is pictured assisting with the move. The GHRA caboose sports a new coat of paint more accurately reflecting its heritage in this photo, thanks to the hard work of the GHRA volunteers in Summer 2008. Consider joining us in 2009 to work on our next restoration challenges! Fill out a membership form found at <http://www.ghra.ca>



John Sleeman, founder, President, and CEO of Sleeman Breweries poses aboard OSRX 506, now lettered for the Guelph Junction Express sponsor that bears his namesake. Sleeman chartered the train for a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary party in September. Trevor Blatherwick photo.



From left to right: Tom Sagaskie (Manager, Guelph Junction Railway), John Carroll (President, Guelph Junction Express), and Ben Boehm (President, Guelph Junction Railway) at opening ceremonies



City of Guelph Mayor Karen Farbridge prepares to inaugurate the Guelph Junction Express with a bottle of champagne



Inauguration complete!