

# 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: PO Box 21054, 35 Harvard Rd Guelph, ON N1G 4T3. E-mail: [inquiry\[at\]ghra.ca](mailto:inquiry[at]ghra.ca). Price: Free. To join GHRA see details below.

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## Welcome

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

## Association News

### **New mailing address reminder**

Please remember to send all membership renewals and communication to our new mailing address.

**G.H.R.A Inc.  
PO Box 21054, 35 Harvard Rd.  
Guelph, ON N1G 4T3.**

### **Last reminder for 2010 dues**

We thank all members for their continued support and membership. If you have not yet sent in your 2010 dues, you may mail a cheque (Payable to the Guelph Historical Railway Association) to our mailing address above, or bring a cheque or cash to an upcoming meeting.

### **Spotlight on Heritage, Stone Road Mall, Saturday February 13 2010. 9:30 AM – 5 PM.**

This will be the third consecutive year of our participation in Spotlight on Heritage in February, and about 6 volunteers are required to make the day go smoothly. We will have a table in the

mall, complete with a club display, some artifacts, and souvenir sales. The busiest times for this event are in the morning where we have the most face to face time with people interested in our group.

### **Doors Open Guelph, April 24 2010**

The GHRA has been accepted to participate in Doors Open Guelph on Saturday, April 24 2010, 10 AM to 4 PM. CPR 436994 and some railway artifacts will be on display for guided tours by GHRA members. Volunteers will be required for this event. The likely location of the Caboose will be on the siding by the River Run Centre, beside St. Georges Church. **Details will be finalized as April approaches, but approximately six volunteers will be required.**

### **Change of Insurance Policy**

For 2010, the GHRA Board changed our insurance carrier to Halwell Mutual of Guelph, through the brokerage services of HJM Insurance. We have increased our liability from \$1 million to \$2 million, meeting the needs of the updated City of Guelph insurance policies for those participating in their events. This change will also net the Group a 20% reduction in yearly insurance costs.

### **Annual General Meeting for 2010 in April**

At the 2009 AGM in November, to better align our AGM to our fiscal year end, we have

moved the AGM to April 12 2010. At this meeting, the GHRA will present our 2009 financial statements and plans for 2010 and beyond. Nominations for the Board of Directors are also welcome. Consider volunteering on the Board if you have an interest in helping with club administration and direction.

### **Train Show Volunteers**

Any member who enjoys going to train shows and would like to volunteer to man a GHRA table to help promote our group, please contact a member of the Board.

### **Artefact Acquisitions**

Over the summer, the GHRA acquired the following artifacts to add to our collection

- CNR Caboose Stove from early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with a poker.
- 2 Locomotive Coal Scoops
- 2 Ladles for pouring molten babbitt at locomotive shops
- 2 Caboose marker lanterns
- 1 "Hurricane" lantern
- 1 hand lantern with red globe
- 3 cups, 2 plates, 1 large CPR dining car service plate
- 2 Coffee Pots suitable for caboose stove

### **Santa Express train 2010**

While the GHRA was not able to use our caboose for this years Santa Express train, at the last minute we were able to arrange for a table for club information and souvenir sales at the Guelph Youth Music Centre. As well, a couple volunteers did provide on board services. Thanks to all who volunteered, we had a net proceeds of \$38 in sales plus a \$50 donation from the GJE for our assistance.

### **Canadian Tire Money**

The GHRA will collect Canadian Tire Money donations to assist with our Caboose restoration. We will use this

cash to buy miscellaneous supplies at our work days. Please send your donations by mail to the attention of our Treasurer or at our meetings.

### **Where you can contribute to the GHRA**

If you feel you would like to do more for the GHRA, consider joining us in any of the following activities

- Join the Board and assist with the administration of the club. We are looking for anyone with Treasury/Accounting or legal experience, but anyone with an interest in administration is welcome.
- Help with restoration/work dates, painters, carpenters, woodworking/metal fabricating, railway mechanics, or you simply like to work.
- Project managers who would oversee/plan a restoration project
- Curators or collection administrators

Alternatively, you can let us know your special skill/interest and we will find a way for you to help. Contact a board member or e-mail [inquiry@ghra.ca](mailto:inquiry@ghra.ca)

## **Railway & Preservation News**

### **Ontario Southland Railway takes over the CPR St. Thomas Subdivision**

On December 14, 2009 the Ontario Southland Railway began a new chapter in their history, with the lease of the St. Thomas subdivision from the Canadian Pacific Railway. Running 33.6 miles from Woodstock, Ontario to St. Thomas, Ontario, major customers on the line include Gen Auto (Automotive mixing facility for CAMI and other facilities), Messenger Delivery Services at St. Thomas and an elevator at Putnam, Ontario. Due to the volume of traffic on the line, service is provided 7 days a week with interchange with the CPR at Woodstock, Ontario.

The Ontario Southland has operated the Guelph Junction Railway since 1998, and also operates a line from Ingersoll to Tillsonburg, Ontario.

## **Local Museum Acquisition news**

The Palmerston Railway Museum has acquired former wooden CNR Caboose 78638, built in 1948 from a boxcar previously constructed in 1910.

The Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association's Halton County Radial Railway (Rockwood, Ontario) has acquired a former CPR wooden caboose, numbered 437123. This unit would be very similar to the GHRA's 436994 and we have already been in contact with the HCRR staff to provide advice and share information regarding their restoration goals.

## **About the GHRA**

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

January 11 2010 – Regular meeting

**Saturday February 13 2010**– Spotlight on Heritage, Stone Road Mall. 9:30 AM to 5 PM.

March 8 2010 – Regular Meeting

February 8 2010 – Regular Meeting

April 12 2010 – GHRA Annual General Meeting

**April 25 2010** – Doors Open Guelph – Caboose on display @ Downtown Guelph. Details and sign-up sheet at a future meeting as they are finalized.

May 10 2010 – Regular Meeting

**Where we meet:** Regular meetings are held at the Cooperators building, 130 Macdonnell 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.

## **2010 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) or e-mail us at [inquiry@ghra.ca](mailto:inquiry@ghra.ca)

## **GHRA Executive 2010**

### **Bruce Lowe**

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### **Peter Shergold**

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### **Trevor Blatherwick**

viarailfan [at] gmail.com

### **Past President: Steve Host**

(519) 836-7186

steve [at] hostovsky.com

## **GHRA Committees**

**Technical/Restoration Committee** – Peter Shergold, Bruce Lowe, David Paterson

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

**Website Committee** – Steve Host, David Graham, Chris van der Heide

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



Trevor Blatherwick sends us this photo he took of two CN units working the salt mine in Goderich, Ontario on November 26 2009.



It's New Years Eve, and Wayne and Judy Shaw captured this fantastic image of the Fireworks exploding in the Winter sky for the patrons of the Guelph Junction Express excursion as 2009 becomes 2010. Photo by Wayne and Judy Shaw, used with permission.