

The SwitchStand



A 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.

Fall 2011/Winter 2012

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Welcome

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

Association News

Switchstand change – to better accommodate a more reasonable Newsletter publication schedule, we are reducing the Switchstand to a twice annually publication (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter). Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with our Newsletter is encouraged to contact us at inquiry [at] ghra.ca or by phone (See bottom of this newsletter)

Dues reminder – Just a friendly reminder that dues for 2012 are due, please send your dues to our mailing address at top of this newsletter, or bring to a regular meeting. You may also use your Credit Card on our website, <http://www.ghra.ca>. On our website, members have the option to subscribe annually or purchase single subscriptions.

Your dues are important as they are used to fund the group and our restoration activities. Any member who has not paid

dues for more than one year (greater than 12 months) at the end of December 2011 will be removed from our e-mail and membership list, so please, if you are VERY late please send your dues in ASAP ☺

Final run of the GJE – in July 2011 the Guelph Historical Railway Association ran the final tour of the Guelph Junction Express tourist train on all of the Guelph Junction Railway as a rare mileage trip. The train was nearly sold out and the trip was a most enjoyable event. In total the GHRA raised \$2,900 from the event which will be used towards restoration of our artifacts, especially our Caboose which we are continuing to restore. See photos in Photo Corner at the end of this newsletter for a picture of the train on rare mileage.

Special thanks to the Guelph Junction Express/Destiny Rail crew of John and Rita Carroll, the Ontario Southland Railway, and all of our volunteers who made the day so successful and go so smoothly.

CPR 436994 restoration – The caboose looks good! Many of our Members were hard at work throughout Spring, Summer and Fall 2011 restoring the Caboose and boy does it ever look good! Thank you to everyone who helped out, we had an excellent number of volunteers in 2011 and we are hoping to repeat

this success in 2012. As of September 2011 the following was completed on the caboose:

- New Tongue and Groove siding on both sides of the caboose in entirety
- Each board was prepared with linseed oil/turpentine mixture, AND a coat of paint prior to application on the caboose for better weather protection
- Additional coats of paint were applied after the Siding was affixed
- New window frames and sills on all four side windows
- Uncovered original Tongue and Groove siding on the ends, and restored its condition (wood filler, sanding, painting)
- Removed the 1970's era oil stove and tank (which was $\frac{3}{4}$ full with hundreds of litres of fuel oil) and disposed of the oil using a certified Environmental Disposal company
- Final weather proofing in September to prepare the Caboose for winter

Due to the onset of bad weather in the fall and winter, not everything was completed and will be deferred to Spring 2012. Jobs to be done:

- Additional coat(s) of paint required on the sides and ends still. Note that as of Jan 1 2012 oil based paint will no longer be sold and we are anticipating this and acquiring oil based paints in advance to ensure adequate supply to finish the Caboose
- Final application of the CPR Logo using our Stencils
- Wire brushing the coats of paint off the grab irons (handrails, etc) repainting, and reapplying them to the Caboose
- Installation of the Coal Stove we acquired in 2010

Unfortunately, we discovered a major problem in the Cupola and areas of rot which require immediate attention next year. The Restoration Committee will be meeting throughout the winter months to discuss a plan of attack and prioritize what needs to be done on the Caboose for 2012. We have also started to discuss plans for the Baggage Car and the committee will be tasked with considering this asset in future plans.

Where you can contribute to the GHRA

The first thing we recommend is to join us as a Member. Your dues help fund our activities and continue our work. We value your membership and volunteering is not required to be a Member.

However, 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 previous administration experience, but if you want to learn, we can help.
- Help with restoration/work dates, painters, carpenters, woodworking/metal fabricating, railway mechanics, or you simply like to work and want to help.
- Curators or collection administrators
- Writers or historians interested in contributing to our historical knowledge

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 [at] ghra.ca

Railway & Preservation News

GO Trains to return on December 19 2011

Members of the GHRA will recall the Toronto GO trains which ran from 1990 to 1993 in Guelph, and the train is once again returning to Guelph, but this time extended to Kitchener.

GO has announced the start of train service to Guelph and Kitchener to Toronto for Monday December 19 2011. Train fares are \$11.70

from Guelph to Toronto one way, and two trains will depart Guelph Station at 6:14 and 7:32 AM, which is in addition to the 6:57 AM VIA train #86. Both trains will originate and terminate at a new layover facility in Kitchener and pick up passengers there. Trains will arrive back in Guelph at 6:18 and 7:15 PM. The Acton stop will be delayed and added in 2012 as negotiations with the property owner took longer than anticipated.

Note that fare and schedule information is subject to change and anyone is advised to check with GO Transit or VIA for current schedules and fares.

PDI Expansion in Guelph – PDI is constructing a new facility in Guelph at the old Wabash Alloys plant on Massey Rd in the north-end industrial park. New trackage is being installed on-site, in total about 15 new tracks will be installed by the Guelph Junction Railway and up to 1500 cars a year of new business will be added to the already busy shortline railways of Guelph. This facility is to be used as a dry goods transload facility and will compliment PDI's Elizabeth St. location. Trackage installation began in Fall 2011 and the first revenue cars should be rolling before winter sets in.

Upcoming meeting/event schedule:

December 12 2011 – **Annual General Meeting**

January 9 2012

February 13 2012

February 18 2012 - Spotlight on Heritage – Stone Road Mall (Tentative)

March 12 2012

April 16 2012 (Moved due to Easter)

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. A form is available on our website which you may use to mail in dues. Alternatively, you may purchase your membership on our website using your credit card, visit www.ghra.ca for more details.

2011 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 or e-mail us at inquiry@ghra.ca

GHRA Executive 2010

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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, Chris van der Heide

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



Pictured above is the last Guelph Junction Express crossing the Hanlon Expressway in Guelph – rare mileage for sure as these tracks form part of the industrial trackage and were not part of the regular GJE route



Patrons of our trip were treated to some real history – Canadian Pacific business car #24 (Formerly CP Quebec), built in July 1929 and owned by the Jolliffe Family was added to the northbound trip, complete with marker lamps and happy passengers enjoying the view. This photo at Moffat, Ontario.



GHRA Caboose 436994 in November 2011 with fully restored Tongue and Groove siding, new windows, and restored (T&G) Caboose ends. In 2012 the Restoration Committee and other volunteers plan to finish painting, re-install the grab-irons, and use our CP Block Lettering stencils to finish the exterior.