

The SwitchStand



A publication of the Guelph Historical Railway Association, charity # BN 89131 4973 RR0001. For submissions, membership dues, change of address, contact: GHRA: PO Box 21054, 35 Harvard Rd Guelph, ON N1G 4T3. E-mail: inquiry@ghra.ca. Price: Free. To join GHRA see details below.

Winter 2020/21

vol.11, issue 1

Welcome

To subscribe electronically to the Switchstand, visit our **NEW** website at: www.ghra.ca

See railway news and COLOUR photographs on Pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter

Find us on Social Media – Search Guelph Historical Railway Association on Facebook and “Like” our page to stay up to date. Also join our e-mail list: through the Guelph Historical Railway Association’ **NEW** website. Newsletters will continue to be produced but have largely been replaced by online mediums.

Association News

Your support is appreciated – thank you for reading our newsletter. The GHRA is looking for members and volunteers – consider joining us today.

Dues reminder – We thank everyone who has already sent in 2020 and/or 2021 dues – if you haven’t yet please mail yours in as soon as possible or through our website – our annual operating costs (insurance, hardware, paint) depend on your support. Thank you.

Fresh Paint for Railway Safety Day – During the late summer of 2019, volunteers spent a number of hours giving a fresh coat of paint to our caboose, now fully lettered for the GHRA. From fresh reds on the tongue and groove to sharp safety yellow on the grab irons and crisp black trucks and frame, it is a great looking van. The repaint was in preparation for the first of an annual event to be hosted beside the River Run Centre by the Guelph Junction Railway for Railway Safety Week, usually taking place across Canada during the last week of September. The event was also attended by CN, Metrolinx/GO Transit, and VIA Rail who each set up booths and spoke with attendees about the importance of safety around railways. Despite the rain the event was attended by about 400 people who toured the caboose.



GHRA 436994 being moved downtown by the Ontario Southland. (Mark MacCauley).

Original Stove acquired for caboose -

After a long search for over a decade, one of the final pieces of hardware to complete our caboose was located last summer. A McClary 213 Van/Caboose Stove, made by McClary Manufacturing of London, ON for the Canadian Pacific Railway. This replaces the temporary CNR stove that has been with our caboose for a number of years.



A Second caboose for the GHRA -

With the final departure of Ontario Southland Railway from the GJR line, (details below) a home was needed for caboose OSRX 4900, a 1954-built steel caboose from the Canadian Pacific Railway, coming to the OSR as 434900 in 1998. The preservation and restoration of this caboose was made possible through the generosity of the folks at the Ontario Southland Railway who donated the caboose to our group.



OSRX 4900 at Guelph Jct. (Drew Goff)

Interested in railway heritage or just getting your hands dirty? Get involved and help bring the 4900 back to original condition!

Local Railway news

CNR 6167 Moves to New Home –

For the second tie in a decade, CNR 4-8-4 6167, built in 1940 by Montreal Locomotive Works, was on the move again. This time from it’s Farquhar Street location to a new site on Woolwich Street beside the River Run Centre and Guelph Junction Railway. The move was necessary to allow Metrolinx/GO Transit expansion of the Guelph Central Station with the addition of a south platform for 2-way all day GO service. See Photo Corner for more.

End of an Era on GJR –

Friday, August 28, 2020 saw the final trains operated by Ontario Southland Railway on the Guelph junction Railway, ending over 22 years of service to the community before switching to a new operator. Conductor Jamie Rolston, who was on the first train on January 2, 1998, was there to the end as conductor on the morning job. OSR continues to operate out of Salford, Ontario with all equipment having been moved there in September.

New Operator for GJR –

Under Genesee & Wyoming, the Goderich-Exeter Railway (GEXR) assumed operations on the Guelph Junction Railway beginning Saturday, August 29, 2020 with the first train running on September 1. Operations remain similarly structured to OSR operations, train 582 ordered in the morning for the north industrial area and train 583 ordered early afternoon for the lower yard and nearby industries. Motive power includes QGRY 3800, 800; a mother/slug set, and RLHH 2117.

CN Rail on the Guelph Sub -

Since the end of GEXR’s lease of the Guelph Sub and associated spurs (Guelph North/Fergus South/Huron Park/Waterloo) in November of 2018, the Canadian National Railway has been busy with Guelph Sub operations now based out of Kitchener. 5 trains are regularly schedule on the line as follows:

L533: Operating overnight from Toronto Macmillan Yard to Kitchener and return.

L540: Operating from Kitchener to Guelph and return with Acton serviced twice weekly.

L542: Operating 5 days/week from Preston to service Guelph Industries.

L566: Operating overnight as needed from Kitchener to Elmira and return.

L568: Operating Kitchener to Stratford and return with London as needed.

Increased GO train Service on the Kitchener Line (PRE COVID) –

Prior to the pandemic, Metrolinx began offering increased GO train service on the Kitchener line including a mid-day train and evening trips. A total of 16 trains, 8 each way, now operate the full length of the line. Morning rush eastbounds depart Kitchener from 5:20am to 7:57am. A midday trip departs Union at 12:53pm and departs Kitchener to return east at 2:57pm. The evening rush westbounds depart Union for Kitchener from 3:35pm to 6:53pm with additional trips west at 9:53pm and 10:53pm. An additional eastbound trip departs Kitchener at 8:57pm.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, service is reduced to 4 trains each way on the line.

Calendar of GHRA events/meetings

For the safety of members and guests all our meetings are being held virtually on Zoom. They can be accessed through our website by clicking on the link. Upcoming meetings:

Monday, January 11, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, February 8, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, March 8, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, April 12, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, May 10, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, June 14, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, July 12, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, August 9, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, September 13, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, October 18, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, November 8, 2020 at 7:30pm
Monday, December 13, 2020 at 7:30pm

Virtual Events (ie: Doors Open Guelph - April) are being considered. Please stay tuned for further developments, as well as some other endeavours GHRA has in the works.

To join the GHRA: In addition to joining in person at meeting, your membership can now be purchased ONLINE. Visit our NEW website at www.ghra.ca to purchase your membership and join us in preserving Guelph's railway heritage.

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)

GHRA Executive & Positions 2020/21

Stephen Host (President)

Trevor Blatherwick (Vice President/Treasurer)

Eric Repaci (Technical Director)

Jacob Patterson (Archivist)

Drew Goff (Director)

Mark MacCauley (Director)

Photo Corner - Send submissions by e-mail to inquiry@ghra.ca.



GHRA 436994, our circa 1928 ex CPR wooden van freshly repainted by our volunteers. September 2019, Steve Host.



CNR 6167 in transit to it's new home at John Galt Park beside the River Run Centre. November 14, 2020, Jacob Patterson.



GHRA's newest acquisition, caboose 4900, donated by the Ontario Southland Railway, caboose 4900. September 25, 2020, Steve Host.



OSR 182 pauses with the final train at the Lower Yard closing out 22 Years of service on the GJR. August 28, 2020, Drew Goff.



RLHH 2117 on GEXR 583 works the west end of the Lower Yard on October 23, 2020, Jacob Patterson.