



Guelph Historical Railway Association Inc.

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The Guelph Historical Railway Association Acquires Passenger Coach 3216

The Guelph Historical Railway Association is pleased to announce the acquisition of passenger coach 3216 from the Southern Ontario Locomotive Restoration Society/Waterloo Central Railway. 3216 was built in 1954 by the Canadian Car & Foundry for the Canadian National Railway as a first-class coach for use on CN's Super Continental passenger trains. In 1965, it was rebuilt into a Café/ Snack Bar car, along with 76 seats, as part of CN's modernization effort. It was sold to VIA Rail and was rebuilt again in 1980. By the 1990s these coaches were entirely retired by VIA rail.

3216 holds an iconic status in Canadian Railway history. The fleet of CC&F built lightweight coaches was the backbone of Canadian passenger rail for many decades. 3216 is an ideal fit for the GHRA because it matches our 1950 built CN baggage car, 60337, furthermore because it represents an era of Canadian Passenger railroading that evokes memories of the past. Coaches like 3216 could be regularly seen carrying passengers daily from Guelph to London, Toronto, Palmerston and beyond.

It is our intention to restore the coach appearance to match postwar CN passenger service as found in the mid-20th century. Donations to our group will be used toward this restoration project as well as maintaining our other equipment including our completely restored 1941 wooden CPR caboose. As soon as practical we will have the coach on display during events including Doors Open Guelph, Rail Safety Day and more. We intend this to be another piece in our collection of railway history Guelph citizens can see, touch and experience firsthand. Check our website and Facebook pages for upcoming events which we expect to have by 2022.

First and foremost, we would like to thank the Southern Ontario Locomotive Restoration Society for providing us the ability to acquire 3216, and for their assistance in getting the coach ready and moved to Guelph. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Guelph Junction Railway for their continued support of the GHRA, and their generosity in providing storage space for 3216, and the rest of our historic collection. Thank you to the Goderich-Exeter Railway for assisting with the move to our storage location. To everyone who donated to our Coach Acquisition Fund, without your support along with the support of all our members and donors this acquisition would not have been possible, thank you. Finally, we would like to thank everyone who donated to our group in memory of Evan and Amanda Lodge. Donations in memory of Evan and Amanda will be used in our upcoming restoration project for the coach, which will see this coach remain as a part of our community for many decades to come.

For inquiries, please contact GHRA president Stephen Host:

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