

the SwitchStand



A quarterly publication of the Guelph Historical Railway Association

For questions, membership issues, or how to help, contact: GHRA, 516 Kortright Rd W, Guelph, N1G 3Z1

April 2005

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Welcome to the second issue of the Switchstand!

Thank you to all members who sent in dues for 2005. We need your support to pay for our insurance and support the activities we do on a yearly basis. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining, membership dues (\$40) can be sent to the address above.

If any member has questions about anything in this newsletter or from our regular or board meetings, do not hesitate to contact a board member. Contact information is found at the end of this newsletter.

Regular Monthly Meetings

Regular meetings are held every second Monday monthly, 7 PM Cooperator's Insurance building 130 MacDonell Street downtown Guelph. Meetings consist of an overview of club business and topical entertainment or guest presentations.

Next four meetings:

May 9, 2005

June 13, 2005 – At our caboose, 120 Huron St., Guelph.

July 11, 2005

August 8, 2005

June meeting at our caboose!

The June 2005 regular meeting of the GHRA will be held at our caboose! The Caboose is located at 120 Huron Street in Guelph. In the event of rain, we will have the meeting at our regular location at the Cooperators.

From the Board

Business has been quiet since the cancellation of the OBRY railfan trip and the completion of all related business. A second attempt at a railfan excursion has not been ruled out, however we have not begun actively planning a new excursion.

We have received new information from the Guelph Storm regarding the 50/50 draw and related fundraising opportunities, and we will be submitting an application in the hopes of participating.

Our President, Steve Host has been continuing to work with the city's CN 6167 Committee to draft an application for a Trillium Grant from the federal government to apply towards asbestos abatement in the restoration project.

Insurance for 2005/2006

Our liability insurance policy comes due in May. This year our premium is \$1513.08, an increase of \$58.32 from last year. Insurance has always been our single largest expense.

Locomotive 6167 News

In April some residents noticed Locomotive 6167 in a tarp and it appeared work was being performed on the engine. In fact, the work done was a simple clean up of asbestos that has leaked out of the locomotive, and patching up the holes to ensure no further leaks. However there has been no actual restoration work done to this point.

Operation Lifesaver

At our April 2005 meeting Constable Jay Brewer of the Canadian National Police Services visited the GHRA to discuss Operation Lifesaver.

Const. Brewer mentioned he was surprised we were not a model railroad club, as that is the type of club Operation Lifesaver deals with the most.

Const. Brewer discussed the need for volunteers in the Guelph area, and discussed the two levels in which members of our Club can volunteer with Operation Lifesaver

Level 1 Presenter: Upon completion of a free 2 day course, volunteers will be able to go into schools and give a 10 minute presentation based on Operation Lifesaver's mandate.

Level 2 Associate presenter: For people who do not have as much time to take the course, associate members can assist Level 1 presenters with presentations and hand out materials.

Const. Brewer noted that in Guelph there are currently no Level 1 presenters, so he would gladly welcome any volunteers. Anyone interested is asked to contact Steve Host in order to organize a training session.

In addition to this, Const. Brewer has been made aware of our GuelphFest efforts and offered resources from Canadian National for future public events.

The first is "little Obie", which is a mock CN locomotive and caboose, capable of riding on pavement. Kids can ride in this locomotive and this vehicle is used to promote railway safety at events.

Secondly, Canadian National will support us with use of a crashed car display, which consists of a car crushed by an oncoming train. This would be used to illustrate the dangers of trying to beat a train.

Const. Brewer also offered a full complement of Operation Lifesaver booths and displays which we can get access to.

All in all it was a good presentation, which was followed by an informal discussion on

other topics of general interest to our members.

Orangeville-Brampton Excursion

Sunday, April 3 was the date of our much-anticipated railfan excursion on the OBRY from Orangeville ... unfortunately it didn't happen. With only a week left before the excursion date, we had still only sold 50% of the tickets we needed just to reach the break-even point financially. Therefore, we were sadly forced to cancel the excursion. The official announcement was posted on Sunday March 27, and phone calls were placed to all ticket-holders on Monday evening to inform them of the cancellation, and all cheques were refunded and mailed back. Our deposit cheque was returned by OBRY, so fortunately our club has not lost any money on this trip, although we are naturally disappointed that we were unable to make the run. The early date and possibility for bad weather or muddy conditions, short advertising period, little perceived difference from the OBRY's standard excursions, and scheduling conflicts with the South Simcoe Railway AGM and Humber College model railroad flea market have all been suggested by some as possible factors in our lower than anticipated sales.

Local Railway News

UP SD70ACe Tested on GEXR

Two brand new Union Pacific SD70ACe units from GMDD in London, UP 8310 and 8318 made a test run on the Goderich-Exeter Railway's mainline freight train 432/431 on March 21, 2005. Since then, they remained parked at Stratford, and were later joined by two more new UP SD70ACes, nos. 8311 and 8321. However no further test runs occurred, and all 4 engines have now left for the US.

GEXR Welded Rail Installation

The welded rail segments dropped along the Guelph sub in December were installed in April. The new upgrades are between Guelph and Breslau. One of the upgraded segments begins right at the west end of the set-off tracks in Guelph (at the base of Silvercreek Pkwy.) and includes the bridge over the Hanlon Expressway.

VIA Rail Schedule Changes

Effective May 1, 2005 VIA rail is changing their timetable for many trains throughout Canada. The following are the changes for trains servicing Guelph:

A new train will be added from June 3 to September 6 on Fridays and Saturdays only. This train, number #688 will run from London to Toronto with the following times:

Dep London	22:00
St. Mary's	22:33
Stratford	22:51
Kitchener	23:21
Guelph	23:47
Georgetown	00:17
Brampton	00:28
Arr. Toronto	00:59

#688 is intended for the patrons of the Stratford festival or anyone requiring a late night train to Toronto.

Train 84: Changed to start from Sarnia instead of Kitchener. Schedule remains the same otherwise.

Train 86: No changes

Train 88: Schedule pushed ahead 1 hour 15 minutes. Train now stops at Guelph at 21:51

Train 85: No changes

Train 87: Train is extended from London to Sarnia, but otherwise runs on the same schedule.

Train 89: Train extended from Kitchener to London. Schedule also pushed ahead an hour. Train will be through Guelph at 23:28

OSR Grade Crossing Accident

On Friday April 22, 2005, there was a Grade Crossing accident on the Ontario Southland railway. The GHRA had the opportunity to tie in our Operation Lifesaver visit by Constable Brewer in an article in the Guelph Tribune. The article was published on Tuesday April 25, 2005.

GEXR Borrowing CN GP40-2L

In early May 2005, the Goderich and Exeter Railway began borrowing a CN GP40-2L (CN 9540) to run on their regular Toronto to Stratford freight. GEXR has been known to do this from time to time when require extra power due to several engines being down for maintenance, so this is expected to be on the system for a few weeks time.

Former IMICO site news

The City Council has allowed future rail use to stay an option for the old IMICO site near the Guelph Junction Railway's lower yard. This allows the City to consider rail-based options for future development, such as an extended rail yard or new customer.

GHRA Board of Directors

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Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the home of one of the board members. Please contact a board member in advance if you are interested in attending.

