

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

December 2005

vol. 1, issue 4

Welcome

Welcome to the fourth issue of the Switchstand for 2005. On behalf of the GHRA I would like to wish all of our members, families and friends all the best this holiday season.

Stephen C. Host, President.

Board of Directors News

Following the November Annual General Meeting, we have some changes in the make-up of the Board of Directors. In October, David Graham resigned from the board for personal reasons. He remains a member and supporter of our organization. We'd like to thank David for all his help during the first two years of the new board. Bruce Lowe also stepped down as Treasurer, and we would like to thank him for his contribution to the executive. Bruce remains on the Board as a member at large. Joining the board is Paul Tatham, who will once again be taking over the duties of Treasurer.

If any member wishes to join the Board of Directors, or sit in on a Board meeting, contact a member of the executive. Board meetings are held on the 1st Monday of every month.

Club News

2004 Financial Return

The 2004 financial return has been completed, and a copy has been sent to the membership of the club. The good news is

we are still in the black for 2004, having shown a net gain of \$166.83 for the 2004 fiscal year.

The bad news is with this little amount of cash flow we are still not sitting in a comfortable position, as a simple raise of our insurance rates could eradicate this surplus.

You can help the GHRA raise our financial portfolio, which will be used towards our restoration and community efforts as follows:

- Join the GHRA as a dues-paying member
- Ask a friend to join the GHRA
- Make a donation to the club
- Ask your contacts in the business world to donate materials, services, or a monetary donation
- Any other fundraising ideas

Remember! The GHRA is a registered charity and tax receipts are available for donations above \$10.

If you would like to become a supporting member of the GHRA, or you are a member and have still not renewed for 2006, annual membership dues are \$40 and you can join/renew by mailing your contact information and payment to 516 Kortright Rd. W, Guelph, ON, N1G 3Z1. Cheques should be made payable to Guelph Historical Railway Association.

Doors Open Guelph

Preparations are continuing for our participation in Doors Open Guelph, which is

on Saturday April 22 2006. As mentioned earlier, our caboose will be on display, and possibly an Ontario Southland Railway locomotive.

Scheduled work party dates: Saturday March 25 2006, 10 AM. Meet at Crompton Chemical, 130 Huron St, Guelph. (off Alice street, not far from York Road)



Photo by Chris vanderHeide

We will meet on March 26 (Rain, snow, or shine) to gauge what needs to be done to the Caboose. What we do know is our smokestack needs repair after its encounter with the trees on the wye near Alice Street. Anyone with metalworking experience is encouraged to volunteer (Contact a board member!)

If further work is deemed necessary, we will schedule additional work-dates in the days leading up to Doors Open Guelph.

1939 Royal Train Colour Footage found!

A copy of some colour footage of the 1939 Royal Train has been located, and we have obtained permission to show it at our March 2006 regular meeting! We believe this footage to show the train passing through the Guelph area. As this may be of interest to many in our community, feel free to invite a friend to come and see this rare footage.

Video of CNR 6167 for January

At our January meeting, Bruce Lowe will be showing a video showing CNR 6167 in operation. There will also be a slideshow of general interest afterwards.

Recent Acquisitions

The GHRA has added the following items to our historical collection:

- A Canadian Pacific Caboose Chair, kindly donated by Rob Smith of Hamilton, Ontario
- A Canadian Pacific switch key, donated by Steve Host.

A special thank you to Rob Smith for contacting us and donating the Caboose Chair. If you have items you would like to donate to the GHRA, we would be happy to help you. We are especially interested in railway artifacts related to railroading in the Guelph/Wellington Country area.

Local Railway News

GJR Grade Crossing Upgrades

Some may have noticed the major upgrade work at the Guelph Junction Railway's grade crossing on Woodlawn (near the new Home Depot). Full gates have now been installed and are in operation at this crossing, making it the only fully protected crossing with gate arms on the GJR. Rumour has it that Home Depot has provided a portion of the funding, as their entrance is directly beside the tracks, and the new crossing protection also makes it safer for their customers. While this crossing is the first to receive fully automatic gate arms, it is not actually the first gates on the GJR. There is evidence that proves that gates of a manual sort, operated by a crossing watchman, were in place at least on Eramosa Road, and possibly other downtown crossings, in the late 1930s.

Earlier this year, the crossing at Stone Road was replaced as the road was widened and a bridge replaced. The new crossing protection has the ability to sense the oncoming trains speed to ensure timely activation of the protection.

Also the grade crossing on Nassagaweya First Line in Moffat was upgraded from simple crossbucks to flashing lights.

These crossing upgrades represent a commitment to safety from the GJR and we are happy to see continual upgrades.

Another VIA Rail Engine In a Promotional Paint Scheme

In November of 2005, it was revealed that a VIA Rail F40PH-2 number 6424 has been

painted into a bright-red Budweiser scheme. This promotion is to promote the upcoming Superbowl in Detroit Michigan. This engine is making the rounds on various VIA rail trains, including those through Guelph. Look for it!



VIA 6424 sports a new colour scheme. Photo by David Graham

GJR Food Terminal In the News

Lots of political ramblings about the proposed Food terminal on the GJR. This small excerpt from the Fountain Pen, an online newspaper for Guelph:

Guelph City Councilor Downer put forward a motion "that GJR should report on the "trans-loading project" by mid-February and advise council of any decisions that are to be made." It was noted that the vote passed with only one objection.

With this in the news, it would appear that we may have more information to report by February.

VIA Rail Corridor Performance

From Canadian Passenger Rail mailing list via Dale Wilson, quoted from VIAlogue, VIA Rail Employee Newsletter:

"2005 actual Revenue/Expense ratios to the end of September 2005:

- Corridor East - 88%
- Southwestern Ontario - 48.9%
- Eastern Services - 39%
- Western Services - 60%
- System overall - 63%"



Photo by Chris vanderHeide

CN 6167 Restoration Fundraising

On the first weekend of October, the 6167 Restoration Committee held a press conference to unveil a beautiful painting by railroad artist Larry Fisher depicting CN 6167 with an excursion train at Guelph station. Prints of the painting are available for sale, and the mayor offered to purchase the original for the new city hall.

Numbered and signed prints of Larry Fisher's "Guelph welcomes 6167" are available through the Gift Shop of the Guelph Civic Museum (6 Dublin St N, 1-5 PM daily) or directly from the publisher Heritage Art Editions of London Ontario. (<http://www.heritagearteditions.com/>) Each print measures 30" wide by 20 " high. The cost of a print is \$150. Shipping, handling and taxes are extra.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Regular meetings of the Guelph Historical Railway Association are held at the Cooperators Insurance building at 130 MacDonnell St. in Guelph, ON. Meetings start at 7:00PM and typically consist of discussion and topical entertainment (videos, slide presentations, etc.)

Check out our web site, www.ghra.ca, for up-to-date listing of our upcoming events and meetings.

January 9, 2006 – Regular meeting

Video of CNR 6167 in operation, and Slideshow by Bruce Lowe

February 13, 2006 – Regular meeting

March 13, 2006 – Regular Meeting

1939 Royal Train Footage in Colour!

March 25 2005 – Work Party @ Caboose
Prepare caboose for Doors Open Guelph!
Meet at 10 AM, Crompton Chemical, 130
Huron St Guelph.

April 10, 2006 – Regular Meeting

April 22, 2006 – Doors Open Guelph
Volunteers required. Mark your calendar!



Interior of caboose on display August 2004.
Photo by Steve Host



Amtrak #85 passing GHRA display, Aug 2003.
Photo by Steve Host



People in line for Guelphfest 2004 display. Photo
by Chris vanderHeide.

GHRA Board of Directors

President: Steve Host
(519) 836-7186
shost [at] uoguelph.ca

Vice-President: Peter Shergold
(519) 824-8254
sshergold [at] sympatico.ca

Treasurer: Paul Tatham
(519) 837-1464
ptatham [at] uoguelph.ca

Secretary: Chris van der Heide
(519) 513-9499
chris [at] vanderheide.ca

Bruce Lowe
(519) 821-3828
pinetree05 [at] netscape.ca

Switchstand Contributors

The following people or sources contributed
to this issue:

Chris van der Heide
Stephen Host
Paul Tatham
Peter Shergold
The Fountain Pen
(www.thefountainpen.com)
Canadian Passenger Rail E-mail list (Dale
Wilson)

We recently posted additional photos from
our past events! For more, visit our website
at <http://www.ghra.ca> and click 'past events'



Ontario Southland's ex-CPR steel caboose
brings up the rear. Photo by Chris vanderHeide.