

# the SwitchStand



A quarterly publication of the Guelph Historical Railway Association  
For questions, membership issues, or how to join, contact: GHRA: 516 Kortright Rd W, Guelph, N1G 3Z1

**July 2006**

**vol. 2, issue 2**

## Welcome

Please note there is no regular meeting scheduled in August. The next regular meeting will be September 11 2006.

**NEW!** Subscribe to our newsletter and receive your copy automatically, as soon as it is released! Send an e-mail to:  
[switchstand-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:switchstand-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

At the present time only e-mail subscriptions are available. Paid members of the GHRA have the option of receiving their copy by postal mail.

According to our statistics, the 2005 SwitchStand newsletters have been downloaded from our website a total of 844 times as of July 31 2006. Adding our paper distribution brings us to over 1000 views!

## Club News

### **2005 Financial Statements**

Our financial statements for 2005 show the GHRA suffered a net loss of \$433.83 for the year. This is the first showing in the 'red' for the GHRA since 2001, as common to both years we did not have any major event to make up for the revenue shortfall. This loss also comes

despite a \$300 anonymous donation in 2005, which means the deficit would have been much greater without it. The full financial results will be distributed to our members in the fall upon completion of our annual information return.

Over the last few months, the GHRA board of directors has undertaken the following to improve our financial performance:

- Increased membership recruitment activity
- Investigation of a reduction in our insurance premium (insurance is 90% of our operating budget.)
- Investigate revenue-generation using our existing club assets
- Increase our visibility and community involvement

### **Your ad here!**

Sponsor the GHRA! For a Suggestion donation of \$100, your company or organization will receive advertisements for a year in our newsletters, mentions on our website and at our public events! Contact a board member for details.

What you can do to help the GHRA:

As a member, the easiest thing you can do is to recruit more supporters! If you are not a member of the GHRA, consider supporting us as a dues paying member! Dues are only \$40 yearly, and your contribution allows us to continue our mandate. Plus, you will then become a full voting member of the organization.

Also, consider approaching businesses on behalf of the GHRA, and see if they would be interested in supporting us. We have advertising opportunities in this newsletter, on our website, and at our public events all seen by thousands of people per year.

If a member has any ideas for fundraising activities, the Board of Directors would be more than happy to listen to you. Having said that, many activities require volunteering time, and we need to be careful which we select as there is only so many available resources within our group.

Lastly, it should be noted the GHRA is a Registered Charity any cash donation to our group over \$10 is eligible for a tax receipt.



GHRA members painting the caboose, July 15 2006.

### **Caboose Update**

In July 2006, GHRA volunteers performed some work on the caboose, painting the north side to protect it from the elements.

We also noted some areas of rotten wood, which need to be replaced ASAP. This includes areas around the window framing, as well as pockets in the plywood.

Additional work days are expected to be scheduled in the coming months.

### **Tour of Union Station and John Street Roundhouse – September 16 2006**

Open to all members and guests of the GHRA, we will be embarking on a tour of the above mentioned facilities in conjunction with the Toronto Railway Historical Association on Saturday September 16 2006. As their special guest, with Derek Boles as our tour guide, we will get a historical tour of both facilities. This tour will cater heavily to the rail enthusiast and history buff.

The cost for this tour is \$10. If any non member wants to join the GHRA and also join us on our tour, you can have the tour fee waived with full dues payment. This offer only applies to new members joining after August 1 2006 and is available up to the date of the tour.

RSVP to Peter Shergold (see contact information at end of newsletter)

The tour is scheduled to coincide with arrival of VIA #84 in Toronto. Start time will be about 11 AM. GHRA members may travel by train, and meet at the VIA rail station for the train trip to Toronto on VIA #84. The tour will fill in as much of the time as possible leading to departure on VIA #87.

The GHRA is not providing any means of transportation to/from Union Station and you are free to travel by alternate means if you wish.

Also keep note during this tour we will be walking the entire time, with a break

for lunch in between. Lunch is not provided in the tour fee, therefore bring appropriate funds for whatever food you wish to purchase.



VIA Rail's "Stratford Express" – a Once/Year black tie affair passes through Guelph on May 27 2006. The train had 10 very full passenger cars and 2 locomotives. Patrons paid \$550 per seat.

## Local Railway News

### Commuter Transit study

The results of a study by the "North Mainline Municipal Alliance (NMMA)" to improve passenger rail service have been in the media in June and July of 2006. The press has given many high-level details of the study to the general public. The GHRA will summarize the more relevant details of the study here.

This study is to consider a commuter and intercity rail service connecting to GO trains departing and arriving at Georgetown. Considered in three phases:

#### Phase 1: Georgetown to Breslau: (\$19.1 million)

- Third main track for 0.6 miles of the CNR Halton sub, between Guelph Sub Switch and Georgetown Station.
- Centralized traffic control (CTC) (25% of budget)
- Acton Station & Parking
- Breslau Station & Parking
- Road crossing improvements (26% of budget)
- Addition of at least one 6500 foot long siding

#### Phase 2: Breslau to Stratford (\$17.3 million)

- Track upgrades (40%)
- CTC Upgrades (25%)
- Road crossing improvements (35%)
- Addition of one 6500 foot siding

#### Phase 3: Stratford to London (\$21.8 million)

- Track upgrades (50% of budget)
- CTC Upgrades (13%)
- Road crossing upgrades (37% of budget)
- Addition of one 6500 foot siding

The "NMMA" is proposing to use Budd RDC cars refurbished by IRSI in Moncton, NB, in pairs for the service. A total of 10 units at a cost of 2 million each are proposed.

A total of 58.2 million is proposed in capital expenditures. Operating costs are estimated at \$3.5 million annually.

The study assumes about a half million to a million riders per year will utilize these services for both commuter and inter-city travel.

This study is simply to form a basis for further negotiations with higher levels of government, therefore one is not to take this study as fact. The GHRA will be monitoring the progress of this group and will report on any future developments.

(Source: July 17 2006 Guelph City Council Agenda)

#### Possible August 'up close' look at the IRSI "BUDD RDC's?"

The Guelph newspapers have talked about a possible visit of the IRSI refurbished RDC to Guelph for demonstration purposes. As of press time, no further information has been released. If a visit is scheduled soon, we will inform membership on our e-mail lists and website.

### **Elmira Road Underpass**

The City of Guelph is constructing an underpass under the GEXR/CN line at Elmira road in Guelph. This will link the severed portions of Elmira road once complete.

### **PDI Takes Over Huntsman Chemical site.**

As reported in the previous edition, PDI has taken over the former Huntsman Chemical plant on Victoria Road in Guelph to use as a liquids transfer facility. We have also learned that the first rail shipments commenced almost immediately upon possession in early June, which is good news for the GJR.

### **GJR Board Citizen Appointments**

The Guelph Junction Railway commenced with a plan to increase public involvement on its Board of Directors. A total of three citizen positions were available and filled in June of 2006.

### **150th Anniversary of Rail Service Honoured in Kitchener.**

It was noted in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record that nearly 300 people turned out for 150th anniversary of rail service festivities at the Kitchener VIA Rail station. The station also received heritage designation on the same day.

### **More Welded Rail on GEXR**

More welded rail upgrades have been noted between Stratford and Kitchener on the GEXR/CN Guelph subdivision. New rail has been observed beside the track around Baden and is likely to be installed within the year.

### **August 12 – 3-7 PM. GHRA Barbecue!**

At the trackside home of member Paul Tatham, 5101 Jones Baseline Road. Directions: Highway 7 east of Guelph, turn north on Jones Baseline. Cross the rail overpass, and first house on the right. Please RSVP to Steve Host (Contact info below). It would be appreciated if those coming could bring a cold salad or dessert. There is no cost for this event.

September 11 2006 – GHRA Regular meeting – Entertainment TBA

September 16 – Union Station and John Street Roundhouse Tour

October 16 2006 – GHRA Regular Meeting – Entertainment TBA

November 13 2006 – Annual General Meeting

Visit our website, [www.ghra.ca](http://www.ghra.ca) for an up-to-date listing of our meetings and events, including entertainment.

### **GHRA Board of Directors**

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### **Support CNR 6167 Restoration!**

#### **Buy a button!**



Show your support for CNR 6167  
Purchase your CNR 6167 buttons at any  
GHRA regular meeting, or in person at  
Guelph Civic Museum. Suggested donation  
\$3.