

the SwitchStand



A quarterly publication of the Guelph Historical Railway Association, charity # BN 89131 4973 RR0001. For submissions, membership issues, change of address, contact: GHRA: 5101 Jones Baseline R.R. 2, Guelph, Ontario. N1H 6H8. E-mail: [info \[at\] ghra.ca](mailto:info[at]ghra.ca). Price: Free. To join GHRA see details in newsletter below.

July 2007

vol.3, issue 3

Welcome

Non-members are welcome to subscribe to our newsletter and receive your copy automatically, as soon as it is released!

To subscribe, send an e-mail to:

switchstand-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Association News

Reminder: Mailing Address Change
Guelph Historical Railway Association
5101 Jones Baseline R.R. 2, Guelph,
Ontario. N1H 6H8

GHRA baseball caps now for sale!

The GHRA has in our possession a number of "Baseball Cap" style hats available for sale to members and the general public. The hats are one size fits all, are an attractive 'Canadian Pacific maroon' color, modeled after our Caboose. It sports an embossed GHRA logo on the front.

To buy one, visit us at one of our meetings or inquire by e-mail. Tentative pricing is \$10. Thanks to the Blatherwicks for arranging and donating the hats to the GHRA. For a larger photo, visit our website at <http://www.ghra.ca>.



A picture of the GHRA baseball cap.

GHRA Annual Barbecue - August 11
5101 Jones Baseline Road. **Directions:** from Guelph take Hwy 7 York Road east towards Rockwood, turn left on Jones Baseline, then right into driveway just past the bridge over GEXR's Guelph Sub. Time: 3PM. All are welcome, including wives, kids, friends, and potential members/visitors. Please bring \$5 per adult to cover the cost of food and pop. Kids will be at no charge.

Due to the barbecue, there will be no regular meeting in August.

Caboose Work Days - We will be arranging work days during **August and September** to spruce up our caboose and perform yearly maintenance – **call a board member** if you wish to participate when a date is finalized. Duties include painting and woodworking. Occasional metal-working is also needed. If you have

tools, experience, or want to learn, do not hesitate to volunteer. We especially need assistance from those with railway experience to continue to mechanically maintain our caboose.

Union Station and John Street Roundhouse Tour

Thank you to all 22 participants of our Union Station and John Street Roundhouse tour. A photo is included in Photo Corner. Thank you to the Toronto Railway Historical Association for arranging the tour and to Derek Boles, our tour guide for his time.

Station booth restoration is complete!

The station booth restoration has been completed, and is now stored in our baggage car at Guelph Junction. We will use this booth for any events that we attend requiring a display for material distribution or sales. Members with pick-up trucks or SUV's are encouraged to let the board know if you would be interested in volunteering when we require moving the booth.

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who helped with this effort from start to finish.

Acquisition of Guelph Radial Railway artifacts

The Association was pleased to be able to obtain several small sections of rail and ties from the former Guelph Radial Railway which was uncovered during the recent reconstruction of Gordon Street in downtown Guelph. Upon hearing that they had not received any artifacts from the site, we also obtained 2 complete ties and an 8 foot section of rail which we donated to the Halton County Radial Railway museum near Rockwood for their collection.

Local Railway News

Orangeville Train Station Opens

The Town of Orangeville has opened a new train station located on Townline road in Orangeville. The new 1,240-square-foot structure boasts a ticket office, washrooms, indoor and outdoor waiting areas, and an office for the operators, the Orangeville Brampton Railway whose office space was previously housed in the old bunkhouse which burnt to the ground in March of 2006.

Cando Still OBRY Operator

The Town of Orangeville has resolved their differences with Cando Contracting and has ended their threat to cancel Cando's contact as of July 22nd.

John St Roundhouse news

An announcement in June discussed the lease of the remaining portion of the John Street Roundhouse, which the GHRA toured in April, to Leon's Furniture Stores. This would leave three bays for railway museum use, but convert the rest of the space for commercial interests. Lots of opposition to the plan has been voiced, especially from Steam-Whistle Brewery, whose tenancy in the roundhouse includes a railway heritage display. This will be one to watch. Stay tuned.

Waterloo Central Railway opens

The Waterloo Central Railway has inaugurated their excursion train service between Waterloo and St Jacobs, with stops at the farmers market in between. As of July 2007, trains operate Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, with ticket prices for adults at \$10 plus tax, and child/student/senior discounts available. For more information, visit <http://www.steam-train.org/WCR/main.htm> for schedules and ticketing information.

Possible Fall Steam Tour

The Association has heard rumors that the Southern Ontario Locomotive Restoration Society (SOLRS), operators of the Waterloo Central Railway, may be

planning a tour with 1923 0-6-0 Essex Terminal Railway (ETR) No. 9 similar to the highly successful 2003 GEXR Heritage Tour.

New Stratford Shop?

SOLRS is apparently negotiating with GEXR towards constructing a shop facility on the site of the former Stratford Roundhouse to be used as a base for maintaining ETR No 9 and to provide GEXR with a much needed Guelph Sub facility. Presently power in need of shop facilities has to move to Goderich. SOLRS need for a shop results from the likely removal of track access to the ECRM in St Thomas where they currently have shop space.

New track and possible expansion for PDI Liquids

In July of 2007, Ontario Southland Railway was finishing a new siding track beside PDI Liquids, which is to be used as a run-around. This will allow Ontario Southland more flexibility in servicing south-end industries, without having to take their train all the way to the north end of town. Also, it has been learned that additional track is planned for expansion at PDI liquids.

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.

Crossing Upgrades in Guelph

With the expansion of York Road in Guelph to four lanes, upgrades to the railway signaling is to be undertaken later this year. York Road will be upgraded to cantilevers, complete with new signals, and will be upgradeable to install gates at a later date.

OSR Weed Spraying train in July

On July 1 and 2 2007, Ontario Southland was noted using the former Canada

Starch tank cars (See January 2007 Switchstand for story) for a weed spraying train, consisting of OSRX 180, 506, and the tanker, modified to spray. See "photo corner" for an image depicting this train south of Guelph.

Weed spraying is essential along railway rights of way to keep lines clear of brush and vegetation, which impacts on safety.

Upcoming meeting/event schedule

July 9 2007 – Regular meeting

August 11, 2007 – GHRA Barbecue

September 10 2007 – Regular meeting

October 15 2007 – Regular Meeting

(Moved due to Thanksgiving holiday)

Where we meet: Regular meetings are held at the Cooperators building, 130 Macdonnel St, downtown Guelph. Start time 7 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

To join/support the GHRA: send \$40 dues, payable to "Guelph Historical Railway Association" to our mailing address at top of newsletter, or visit us at one of our upcoming meetings.

Membership dues are tax deductible.
(Registered Charity # BN 89131 4973 RR0001)

Visit our website, www.ghra.ca for an up-to-date listing of our meetings and events, and to view our online photo gallery.

GHRA Executive 2007

President: Steve Host

(519) 836-7186

steve [at] hostovsky.com

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) 341-4711

chris [at] vanderheide.ca

Bruce Lowe

(519) 821-3828

pinetree05 [at] netscape.ca

Photo Corner

Send submissions by e-mail to [info\[at\]ghra.ca](mailto:info[at]ghra.ca) or by postal mail to our mailing address.



Canadian Pacific 7020, S-2 class DS-10b sits in the Toronto John St Roundhouse in April 2007. What does the future hold for this heritage piece? Visit <http://www.friendsoftheroundhouse.ca> for more information. Steve Host Photo, all rights reserved.



Ontario Southland's Weed Spraying train south of Guelph July 2, 2007. Tank car is converted from Canada Starch Company, now OSRX 35.



Guelph, April 5, 1974. Credit Valley Railway steam engine #1057 is turning on the GJR Wye, looking north. Note the water-tower and stub track ending in middle of wye. Bruce Lowe Photo, all rights reserved.