

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: [inquiry \[at\] ghra.ca](mailto:inquiry[at]ghra.ca). Price: Free. To join GHRA see details in newsletter below.

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Welcome

To subscribe electronically to the Switchstand, send an e-mail to: switchstand-subscribe@yahoo.com

Association News

Welcome to our newest members:
Brian Dickey and Elizabeth Gray

Addition to GHRA Board of Directors

At the 2007 Annual Membership Meeting of the GHRA, Trevor Blatherwick was nominated and voted onto the GHRA Board of Directors.

GHRA @ Stone Road Mall in Guelph in February

On Saturday February 16 2008, the GHRA will participate in the Spotlight on Heritage at the Stone Road Mall in Guelph. The Locomotive 6167 Restoration Committee will also be represented, as well as over 10 additional heritage groups of Guelph. Please come visit us at our table and show your support for Guelph's rich heritage.

Don't forget to pay your dues for 2008

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2008, please send it by mail or bring it to

an upcoming membership meeting. Cheques can be made out to "Guelph Historical Railway Association".

GHRA baseball caps for sale - \$10

Buy a GHRA "Baseball Cap" for \$10 and support the GHRA! Hats are one size fits all, are an attractive 'Canadian Pacific maroon' color, modeled after our Caboose. It sports an embroidered GHRA logo on the front. To buy one, visit us at one of our meetings. For mail orders, send a cheque for \$10 plus \$5 shipping, with your mailing address to "5101 Jones Baseline R.R. 2, Guelph, Ontario". Allow up to 6 weeks for delivery.



A picture of the GHRA baseball cap.

Caboose work day in the Spring

Members and guests wishing to get their hands and tools into a project this spring, consider joining us at the next caboose work day. Contact a member of the Technical Committee if you wish to volunteer (see page 3 of this newsletter).

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.

CNR Steam locomotive 6167

The GHRA is putting out a call for Steam Locomotive Experts interested in volunteering in the spring for 6167 restoration work. Supervised by the City of Guelph, we need experts willing to donate their time to ensure accurate restoration by contractor firms. If you are interested in helping to restore an important piece of Canada's railway heritage, contact a GHRA board member.

Local Railway News

GEXR Freight Schedule Changes

Starting in November, Goderich and Exeter Railway Toronto bound freight trains (#431/432) now run through Guelph overnight, usually following VIA Rail #87 and #89.

GEXR's local Guelph freight service has not changed and provides daily, daytime (and weekend if required) service to Guelph industry.

This is a reminder to the general public to stay off railway rights of way as "Anytime is Train Time".

John Street Roundhouse / Toronto Railway Museum news

The Turntable at the John Street Roundhouse was re-installed in November 2007. In December, the turntable was operational and given its first spin in over 19 years. More information including many photographs of the event can be found at the THRA website, <http://www.thra.ca>

VIA Rail announced rebuild of F40PH fleet

Via Rail's entire fleet of F40PH locomotives will be rebuilt after the company announced a five-year, \$101.5-million contract with CAD Railway Services Ltd.

Via has said that 53 F40s will be refurbished by CAD at their facility in Montreal, beginning in 2008. Further reports indicate generators will be installed in each unit to provide HEP as a fuel saving measure.

New Rail Customer in Guelph

The former Transfer facility at Puslinch has recently closed, and moved operations to Guelph. Phillips & Daughters Transfer Facilities Inc. has recently received gondolas at the former Knight Lumber (Petrolia Rd.) siding which was recently re-gauged and fixed up with new ties. More cars were additionally spotted behind Guelph Twine. It has been rumored they may move operations to PDI's Guelph facility on the Guelph Junction Railway but has yet to be confirmed.



Phillips & Daughters Transfer Facility Inc. rail cars at former Petrolia Rd. Knight Lumber facility.

Your company ad here!

Become a GHRA sponsor! For a Suggestion donation of \$100, your company will receive advertisements for a year in our newsletters, mentions on our website, and at our public events. Viewed by over 250 people per issue with emphasis on railroads and heritage. Contact a board member for details.

CN Buys Athabasca Northern Railway

The last freight-operated shortline in Alberta has been sold back to CN. The Athabasca Northern Railway (ANY), owned by CANDO Contracting was sold to CN for \$25 million. This line was once part of the Northern Alberta Railways, which was 50/50 a CN/CP partnership. Due to declining traffic and increased maintenance costs CANDO was in the process of abandoning the line. CN in conjunction with shippers on the line agreed to keep and buy the line in conjunction with guarantees of traffic. CN also sees strategic value as this line runs into the valuable Oil Sands area of Alberta. CN will invest over \$100 million into infrastructure improvements. CN recently bought three other shortlines in Alberta and has made significant investments in each in order to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity the Oil-Sands offers Railway companies.

Ontario-Quebec High-Speed Rail Study

Announced in early 2008, the Ontario and Quebec Governments will once again study the feasibility of a high speed railway corridor between Windsor and Quebec City. A study was last performed 10 years ago, but recent renewal in high-speed rail and resulting environmental benefits have rekindled interest. Stay tuned, more details will be revealed in a future newsletter.

About the GHRA

Upcoming meeting/event schedule

February 11 2008 – Regular Meeting
Saturday February 16 2008 – “**Spotlight on Heritage**” Stone Road Mall. 9:30 AM to 5 PM. **Volunteers required!**
March 10 2008 – Regular Meeting
April 14 2008 – Regular Meeting
April 26 2008 – Tentative date for Caboose Work Day

May 12 2008 – Regular Meeting

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 the GHRA: send \$50 annual 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 2008

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GHRA Committees

Technical Committee – Peter Shergold

Caboose and baggage car maintenance, restoration, planning, and work-day coordination. Contact Peter to join in at the next scheduled work day.

**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.

Photo Corner

Send submissions by e-mail to inquiry [a t] ghra.ca or by postal mail to our mailing address.



“Barney” (GEXR 3843) – formerly assigned to Kitchener/Stratford and frequently seen in Guelph is pictured above in its new home, the New England Central Railroad in Brattleboro, Vermont. December 2007 by David Graham.



“OSR 182 and 505 lead two tank cars for PDI #2 and caboose through Moffat. The train will wye at the Alice Street, head to Kauffman's siding, set off the tank cars and return light to the Junction with just caboose in tow. December 18, 2007.” David Young Photo.