

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.

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Welcome

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

Association News

Welcome to our newest member, John Mellow.

Spotlight on Heritage report

Thanks to all volunteers and visitors who made the day go very well. We had lots of interest and even generated new memberships. \$60 was raised from sales of hats and cash donations.

Get your hands dirty at our upcoming work days this spring

April 26 2008 – Caboose Work Day at Chemtura, 120 Huron St, Guelph.

May 3 2008 – Tourist Train work day, Guelph Junction, Ontario (Campbellville, Ontario).

Additional work days to be scheduled throughout the spring and summer months, contact a GHRA board member or see <http://www.ghra.ca> for upcoming dates.

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

Guelph Junction Express – Guelph's new premier tourist train

Announced to the GHRA membership at our March 2008 meeting and made public in April, a new tourist train is coming to Guelph, called the Guelph Junction Express TM.

This will be a premier tourist train offering dinner class and family class service, boarding near the River Run Centre in Guelph. Passengers will be offered generous views of the protected greenbelt of Ontario while they enjoy a dining experience provided by Platters Catering.

The train will be pulled by crew and locomotives from the Ontario Southland Railway, operators of the Guelph Junction Railway.

Tickets will be sold on the Internet at www.guelphjunctionexpress.ca as well as in person at the Destiny Tours office, 727 Woolwich Street in Guelph.

GHRA Baseball Caps, \$10



Please allow 4 weeks for delivery.

Purchase a GHRA Baseball cap – available at our meetings for \$10 each. Or, order by mail and pay only \$5 shipping. Mail cheque to 5101 Jones Baseline Rd, Guelph, N1H 6H8.

GHRA members are involved in the restoration/start-up of this tourist train service, and you are welcome to get involved. Contact a board member with any questions you may have.

Look for more information on our website at <http://www.ghra.ca> closer to launch date for more details.

History of GJE railcars

The passenger cars which will be used on the Guelph Junction Express are ex Budd RDCs built between 1955 and 1958. Each car was de-motorized and rebuilt by Morrison Knudson in 1982 for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority commuter service. Following the MBTA, the cars were sold to various outfits, where they were most recently used on the Champlain Flyer in Vermont. Destiny Tours has bought the cars and they arrived in late March. GHRA members had our first peek and first work day on the cars a few days later.

The current reporting mark, original owner/number of each car, and build date is as follows:

VTRX 310 (nee B&M 6303 – RDC3 built 1958)

VTRX 103 (nee B&M 6129 – RDC1 built 1955)

VTRX 102 (nee B&M 6144 – RDC1 built 1955)

VTRX 312 (nee B&M 6136 – RDC1 built 1955)

VTRX 106 (nee B&M 6206 – RDC2 built 1955, now a cab car)

VTRX 101 (nee B&M 6208 – RDC2 built 1955, now a cab car)

(Note: B&M stands for the Boston and Maine Railroad)

6167 Restoration important to Guelph

This letter was published in the Guelph Mercury, April 12, 2008 on behalf of the members of the GHRA.

Dear Editor - It is very welcome news that the restoration of Locomotive 6167 is imminent, as this locomotive is a very important piece of our heritage.

Steam locomotives played a vital role in building our country and developing our city. Like the Internet of today, in its day the steam locomotive made our vast country a much smaller place for passengers and freight traffic alike.

The steam locomotive also guided Canada and our allies through world wars and ushered us into the automobile age, where by that time they were permanently replaced with diesel locomotives.

In the 1960s, 6167 was Canada's most photographed steam locomotive. It was made special by the Canadian National Railway, which set it aside as one of the last remaining operating steam locomotives in Canada.

In 1967, CN donated this locomotive to the City of Guelph for safe keeping, to ensure that future generations would not lose sight of what made steam locomotives such as 6167 so special.

Steam locomotives are a symbol of a glorious period in the history of Canada, and it is our duty to maintain 6167 for future generations.

The Guelph Historical Railway Association (ghra.ca) is dedicated to the preservation of our railway heritage and we strongly believe restoration of this locomotive is important to the history of Guelph and Canada.

Stephen C. Host, GHRA President.

Royal Canadian Pacific Luxury Train coming to Guelph Junction

The Royal Canadian Pacific Luxury train is coming to Ontario in June on a cross-Canada tour from Vancouver to Montreal. It is scheduled to have an overnight stay at Guelph Junction between June 25 and 26. This is a luxury private tour and readers are reminded to stay clear of the train as security will most definitely be on-site. Ticket prices for this all-inclusive cross-Canada trip start at \$26,500 per person. See the January 2007 Switchstand for a photo of the last visit of this train to Guelph Junction, and our website at <http://www.ghra.ca> for photos of the train at the River Run in Guelph, Ontario in 2004.

Bi-Pro/Sanimax (Guelph Plant) sold to Traxxside Transloading Inc.

"..the management team of Sanimax has agreed that it was in the best interest of both our company and our customers to divest its interest in the Transloading facility located on Speedvale Avenue, in Guelph, Ontario.

As a result of this decision and effective December 14th the transloading facility will be sold to Traxxside Transloading Inc."

Source: Sanimax press release.

About the GHRA

Upcoming meeting/event schedule

April 26 2008 – Caboose Work Day
May 3 2008 – Tourist Train Work Day at Guelph Junction
May 12 2008 – Regular Meeting
June 9 2008 – Regular Meeting
July 14 2008 – Regular Meeting
August 10 2008 – GHRA Annual Family Barbecue (tentative date)
(No regular meeting scheduled in August due to BBQ)

Where we meet: Regular meetings are held at the Cooperators building, 130 Macdonnel St, downtown Guelph. Start time 7:30 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)

For more about the GHRA including our up-to-date meeting, event, and work date schedule visit our website, www.ghra.ca

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Photo Corner

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



Members of the Guelph Historical Railway Association and the Locomotive 6167 Restoration Committee at Spotlight on Heritage at Stone Road Mall, February 2008. Photo courtesy of Snap Guelph Magazine.



Former B&M 6206 in 1977 at Rockport, MA, USA – sold to MBTA in 1976 but still retaining B&M lettering in photo. Built in 1955 by the Budd Company and rebuilt in 1982 by Morrison-Knudson as a cab-control car lettered MBTA #1404. It is now lettered VTRX 106 and will be used on the Guelph Junction Express tourist train. Photo by George W. Hamlin and used with permission.