

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@yahoo.com

Association News

GHRA & the 2008 Santa Express

In November and December 2008, in conjunction with Destiny Rail, the Guelph Historical Railway Association, and the Guelph Wish Fund for Children, the Santa Express train brought children to the “North Pole” to see Santa. At the “North Pole” visitors saw Santa’s Red Caboose adorned in Christmas lights, where Santa himself was waiting to board the train to bring presents to all on Board.



(Santas Caboose @ Arkell. Chris Vanderheide photo)

Thank you to all volunteers who installed the Christmas lights on the caboose, cleared the caboose right of way of snow, and volunteered on the train and caboose to make this day a success. \$1500 was raised for the Guelph Wish Fund for Children.

Canadian Tire Money

The GHRA will collect Canadian Tire Money donations to assist with our Caboose restoration. We will use this cash to buy miscellaneous supplies at our work days this summer. Please send your donations by mail to the attention of our Treasurer or at our meetings.

GHRA “Rare Mileage” Fundraising Train

On April 25, 2009 the GHRA will operate a “Rare Mileage” excursion train, which will be a tour of the entire Guelph Junction Railway. This will consist of operating over all of the Guelph Junction Railway trackage, from the industrial spurs in north Guelph, down to Campbellville, Ontario. A tour of the Ontario Southland Railway facilities at Guelph Junction will also be offered where some of OSR’s equipment as well as our CP caboose will be on display. Fundraising from this train will go towards the GHRA’s artifact collection, such as the restoration of Canadian Pacific

436994. The tour will be 6 1/2 hours in length, and includes “run past” photo opportunities en-route. Tickets are \$60 for adults, \$45 for kids 12 and under. Reservations can be made on our website using a Credit card at <http://www.ghra.ca>, or in person at Ponds Foto Source in Guelph, or the Credit Valley Railway in Streetsville. As well, an order form will be available at train shows in the area, as well as on our website for those wishing to order by mail. The tour will depart at 10 AM, returning at 4:30 PM from the River Run Centre. For more, visit our website flyer at <http://www.ghra.ca>

How you can help in our restorations

We are looking for members with woodworking, window framing, and railway mechanical experience to help us in our efforts. Let us know how you can help.

Heritage Corner

In this edition of Heritage Corner, we direct the readers attention to “Photo Corner” on Page 4. Depicted are two photos of the Great Western Railway in Toronto. The significance of these photos is that they appear to date to 1865, showing the typical period wood-burning locomotives #88 “Geo. Smith” and #82 “Wm. (William) Wier” with period wooden coaches attached. As well, the Toronto GWR roundhouse, and station are in the background. The Great Western was one of three 19th century steam railways to reach Guelph, completed via Galt in 1857. It is likely this is a type of locomotive that may have seen service to Guelph during this period. Images are from a half plate glass copy negative in the collection of the late O.J. Morris and used with permission of the collection owner.

Railway & Preservation News

Electro-Motive Layoffs in London

600 jobs will be lost in 2009 at the London Electro-Motive assembly plant. Formerly General Motors Diesel, the facility has been known to build Canadian National, BNSF, and export locomotives of late, but with the slowing economy, the orders just aren’t coming in quick enough. Layoffs will occur in three stages, in February, March, and April. However, it is expected that these layoffs will be temporary due to the cyclical nature of the business.

(Source: LF Press)

Thanks to member Grant Love who notified us of this news.



6167 lapel pins - \$7 – order by mail at our mailing address and include \$3 shipping per piece. Order online at www.ghra.ca

GO Station chosen by City of Guelph

The city of Guelph and GO Transit appear to have finalized their preferred choice for the first GO Train station in Guelph, that being the downtown station currently used by VIA Rail. GO Train service is expected to start in Guelph in 2011.

CN Acquires Quebec railways

CN has acquired the Ottawa Central (OCRR) (Montreal-Ottawa-Pembroke), Chemin de fer de Matapedia et Golf (CFMG) (Lower Mainland), New Brunswick East Coast Railway (NBEC), and Compagnie de Gestion de Matane (COGEMA) (Rail ferry & Terminal operation in Baie Comeau, QC) operations. In total 540 track miles of rail lines in eastern Ontario, eastern Quebec and northern New Brunswick are (re)added to the CN system. All of these lines are former CN properties which were spun off as shortlines in the last 10-15 years.

(Source: CN)

West Coast Railway Association receives \$1.25 million for the CN Roundhouse and Conference Centre in Squamish, BC

The West Coast Railway Association, a group dedicated to the preservation of BC's railway history, operates the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish BC. They received a sizeable donation from CN towards the naming and completion of a Roundhouse to store their preserved equipment. \$1.25 million dollars of the \$6 million project was donated, and CN got naming rights for the donation. The WCRA, established in 1994, expects the structure to open in September 2009 and will attract an estimated 75,000 people per year to Squamish BC. Imagine if we could attain the same caliber of museum in our backyard?

About the GHRA

Upcoming meeting/event schedule:

February 9 2009 – Regular Meeting

February 14 2009 – Spotlight on Heritage, Stone Road Mall.

March 9 2009 – Regular Meeting

April 20 2009 – Regular Meeting (Moved due to Easter Monday)

April 25 2009 – Rare Mileage Excursion – see www.ghra.ca for more details

May 11 2009 – Regular meeting

Where we meet: Regular meetings are held at the Cooperators building, 130 Macdonnell St, downtown Guelph. Start time 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

To join the GHRA: Send in your dues according to the schedule below to our mailing address. Include your mailing and e-mail address if you have one.

Alternatively, you may fill out a form available on our website.

2009 GHRA Membership dues

Junior: \$25/annual (under age 25)

Regular: \$50/annual (ages 25-64)

Senior: \$40/annual (ages 65+)

Membership dues and any donations above and beyond are tax deductible. (The GHRA is a 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

GHRA Executive 2008

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GHRA Committees

Technical Committee – Peter Shergold, Bruce Lowe, Brian Blatherwick

Fundraising Committee – Brian Blatherwick, Trevor Blatherwick, Brian Dickey, Bruce Lowe

Website Committee – Chris Vanderheide, Steve Host, David Graham

Tourist Train Volunteer Coordination – Paul Tatham



Great Western Railway roundhouse in Toronto, 1865. Note Dual gauge track in foreground. The GWR built a Branch line to Guelph via Galt opening in 1857. Photo used with permission of Rail Archive Stephenson.



Great Western Railway Toronto station around 1865. This may be an example of a wood burning steam engine type that would have been typical in Guelph mid 19th century. Used with permission of Rail Archive Stephenson.