

The SwitchStand



A publication of the Guelph Historical Railway Association, charity # BN 89131 4973 RR0001. For submissions, membership issues, change of address, contact: GHRA: PO Box 21054, 35 Harvard Rd Guelph, ON N1G 4T3. E-mail: inquiry@ghra.ca. Price: Free. To join GHRA see details below.

Fall 2012/Winter 2013

vol.8, issue 1 v1.1

Welcome

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

Association News

Switchstand change – to better accommodate a sustainable newsletter publication schedule we are reducing the Switchstand frequency, endeavoring to publish twice annually. This is the first Newsletter since November 2011.

Did you recently acquire an e-mail address? – Members are encouraged to join our mailing list. Let us know your e-mail address so we can keep you in our discussion group so you are in the know as it happens.

Help wanted – Do you know people who can help us with our Caboose restoration or are you interested in helping? High school volunteers also welcome for volunteer hours. Contact our restoration Committee, Peter at 519-824-8254 or Bruce at 519-821-3828. Are you able to help with club administration? Join us on the GHRA Board to help with administrative tasks. Contact Steve at 519-836-7186.

Dues reminder – Just a friendly reminder that dues for 2013 are due, please send your dues to our mailing address at top of this newsletter, or bring to a regular meeting. You may also use your Credit Card on our website, <http://www.ghra.ca>. On our website, you have the option to subscribe annually or purchase a single year.

Guelph Junction Express update – On the evening of October 12 2012, the Guelph Junction Express cars made their final journey out of Guelph Junction to their new home on the York Durham Heritage Railway. CP brought the 5 cars to Union Station in the wee morning hours. 24 hours later, again late in the evening, a York Durham RS3 made it down to Union to lift the cars.

Fiscal 2011 AGM Notice – Our 2011 fiscal year AGM will be on November 12 2012. Financial documents are enclosed to members when this newsletter was mailed, if you have any questions, feel free to ask a Board member or come discuss at any meeting.

Caboose Restoration Update:

During our 2012 meetings we debated and decided on the next round of restoration for our Caboose. We have decided to proceed with Cupola restoration, as there was a strong indication our water tightness would be at risk if we did not take action soon. In June 2012 we

contracted the job to Cole Contracting as had been done in 2011, but as of October 2012 the work had not yet begun.

Planned for the contract:

- New Tongue and Groove on all sides of cupola
- New windows and frames

In the Summer, the restoration committee did not wait around, and put in some hard work, managing to complete the following:

- Physical installation the coal stove in the Caboose
- Ensured we had enough painted boards for the contracted job
- Second coat of paint on the caboose sides

Jobs yet to be completed (Likely for 2013 as weather has turned quickly this year)

- Final application of the CPR Logo using our Stencils
- Wire brushing the coats of paint off the grab irons (handrails, etc) repainting, and reapplying them to the Caboose
- WETT certification and completion of coal stove installation to operating condition

We would also like to start work on our next fundraising campaign, and deciding on whether or not our Baggage car is to finally get some attention. Anyone interested in helping with this get in touch with a Board member.

Where you can contribute to the GHRA

The first thing we recommend is to join us as a Member. Your dues help fund our activities and continue our work. We value your membership and volunteering is not required to be a Member.

However, if you feel you would like to do more for the GHRA, consider joining us in any of the following activities

- Restoration/Work (Helping hands)
- Board of Directors/Administrative
- Artifact collection/curation
- Website, Newsletter, Communications
- Any other skill you can bring to the group!

Contact a board member or e-mail inquiry [at] ghra.ca to get involved.

Railway & Preservation News

VIA Rail changes – in July 2012, VIA Rail train 85/88 no longer run to Sarnia, both terminating or originating at London, Ontario. Also by end of October 2012, VIA trains 87 and 89 will both be cancelled, having been largely supplanted by the new GO train departures out of Kitchener. In addition, station agents in Guelph, Kitchener, Sarnia and many other locations will all be laid off. Guelph is expected to retain someone to staff the station, but it has not been determined what/who (City, GO Transit, Greyhound) will provide the staff.

Guelph was not alone as many other routes in the VIA network were cut and there are two more rounds of cuts yet to come. Not great news for passenger rail in Canada, those who are passenger rail users, brace yourselves as the next few years will be quite rocky.

Ontario Northland's "Northlander" Cancelled

On September 28 2012, the last "Northlander" train from Toronto to Cochrane, Ontario called stations on the line as the Ontario Government closed passenger services and switched to motor coach for the 13 hour ride (2 hours longer than the train). As many as four busses were noted at Union Station at the usual train time for Thanksgiving weekend.

The train was cancelled to make way for the eventual sale of the Railway, which is expected to be completed by Spring 2013.

PDI Expansion in Guelph – PDI expanded in 2011, but also doubled their expansion with new tracks in 2012 at both Massey Rd (New facility) and at Victoria St (Original facility). A second switch was also installed off the South Industrial near Imperial Rd to accommodate the extra tracks at PDI Massey Rd.

To accommodate this extra traffic, Ontario Southland is running two daily jobs between Guelph Junction and the industrial areas.

Rail America sold to Genesee and Wyoming – Yet again, our former CN mainline is now under new management. Genesee and Wyoming completed their transaction to acquire all of Rail America on October 1 2012, however before any changes can take place final STB approval is required and is expected by early 2013. Expect new power to arrive on the property sometime in 2013 should the STB rule in favour of the acquisition.

Upcoming meeting/event schedule:

We meet the second Monday of Every month, except when this falls on a holiday, which we meet the following Monday.

October 15 2012

November 12 2012 – **Annual General Meeting**

December 10 2012

January 14 2013

February 11 2013

Saturday February 16 2013 - Spotlight on Heritage – Stone Road Mall (Volunteers required!)

March 11 2013

April 8 2013

April 27 2013 – Doors Open Guelph – Caboose on display (Volunteers required)

May 13 2013

June 10 2013

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 in your dues according to the schedule below to our mailing address. Include your mailing and e-mail address if you have one. A form is available on our website which you may use to mail in dues. Alternatively, you may purchase your membership on our website using your credit card, visit www.ghra.ca for more details.

2012/3 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 or e-mail us at inquiry@ghra.ca

GHRA Executive 2012

Bruce Lowe

(519) 821-3828

pinetree07 [at] sympatico.ca

Peter Shergold

(519) 824-8254

sshergold [at] sympatico.ca

Trevor Blatherwick

viarailfan [at] gmail.com

Steve Host

(519) 836-7186

steve [at] hostovsky.com

GHRA Committees

Technical/Restoration Committee – Peter Shergold, Bruce Lowe, David Paterson

Fundraising Committee – TBD – Consider joining!

Website Committee – Steve Host, Chris van der Heide

Photo Corner - Send submissions by e-mail to inquiry [a t] ghra.ca or by postal mail



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1568, f1568_it0014

A photo of the Priory in use as Guelph CPR Station circa 1900. Notice the brick addition on the right hand side also built to fill in rotting logs. Public domain image courtesy of the City of Toronto archives.



March 2012 - The second Westbound GO Train (#211) of the day is entering Guelph and about to stop at Guelph Central Station (Formerly Guelph VIA Station) as seen from downtown. GO train symbols in 2012 are 207 and 211 westbound, eastbound are 206, 210.

February 2012 - Far from home: Florida East Coast engine 709 is seen at Guelph passing the new City Hall just west of the Station. For two years, Rail America was owned by Fortress Investment Group (FIG) whom also purchased the Florida East Coast Railway. Since FIG owned both companies, attempts to merge the two were made and power was sent far and wide to help Rail America. Company banners at Ontario stations proudly showed both RA and FEC logos. This merger did not proceed and was swiftly retracted in 2012. As a result, the FEC 709 was sent back home. Since then, Genesee & Wyoming has purchased Rail America and FEC is still owned by Fortress.

