

# Local Railway Items from Area Papers - Alexandria sub (GT/CN/VIA)

*24/10/1905 Ottawa Journal Alexandria*

To Montreal in two hours  
This speed will be made in three years  
When GTR road bed is put in proper condition and double track laid.

*28/10/1905 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Terminal*

Ald. Sanderson is trying to have some action taken on the motion he introduced in council regarding the moving of the then C.A.R. tracks from their present location out to along the Rideau to have them enter the city to the Central Depot through the outskirts. His proposal was to have the city buy the land used by the company at present and the company would be able to purchase another right of way and built new tracks with the proceeds.  
Motion adopted and a committee appointed.

*16/11/1905 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Terminal*

Union depot and hotel  
Settlement reached with the heirs of the Sparks Estate.

*15/01/1906 Ottawa Journal Alexandria*

Ald. Storey has a matter in hand which he intends to bring before council shortly relating to the C.A.R. workshops here. He claims he has been informed that the work formerly performed by them is being gradually moved to Montreal by the G.T.R. contrary to the agreement made when the city paid over a bonus for construction.  
As an example he cites the work of repairing or constructing passenger cars, now being done in Montreal shops whereby a monthly wage of \$600 is being lost to Ottawa.  
Ald. Storey has received the city solicitor's advice on the question, who explains the relations of the parties as follows: In 1892 the city made an agreement with the O.A. & P.S. railway whereby in virtue of a bonus of \$150,000 paid, the company agreed to build and operate its construction shops either within the city limits or within one mile of them. Later the C.A.R. took over this company and with it the obligations, as did the G.T.R. when it purchased the C.A.R.  
Mr. McVeity advises that the company can be restrained by injunction from removing the work from Ottawa or if this has been done action can be entered for the return of the bonus.

*16/04/1906 Ottawa Citizen Alexandria*

The Grand Trunk special train consisting of the special car Violet, composite car Viceroy, Compartment car Osenia, one dining and one baggage car will arrive here Thursday morning and leave for Niagara Friday afternoon.

*21/04/1906 Ottawa Journal Alexandria*

Description of Royal Train.

*13/06/1906 Ottawa Journal Alexandria*

Grand Trunk asks leave to expropriate - yard property inadequate.

*24/08/1906 Ottawa Journal Alexandria*

GTR taking levels in the yard near Central depot. No decision yet on station.

*22/10/1906 Ottawa Journal Alexandria*

The eastern division of the C.A. Ry. from Ottawa to Rouses Point is being re-ballasted.

*11/01/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Central Depot*

Order in Council passed yesterday ratifying agreement for the construction of a Grand Central Depot. All railways may use on reasonable terms.

*12/02/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Union Station*

GTR offer to the city. Drawing and plan of proposed Union Station and hotel. Hotel is where the station was ultimately built - no provision for CPR access to Interprovincial Bridge.

*21/06/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Carlsbad Springs*

A station is being erected at Carlsbad Springs.

*24/06/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Carlsbad Springs*

As a result of a bad head on collision on the G.T.R. about three miles west of Carlsbad (Eastmans) Springs late Saturday, William R. Douglas of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, a C.P.R. brakeman met a terrible death. He was pinned under a locomotive--

As a result of the accident a locomotive and three cars were ditched and from 100 to 200 feet of track torn up.

Late Saturday night, a shunting engine, which was running light, and was westbound, collided with the regular east bound freight train. Both train and shunter were travelling at a high rate of speed and it is said they came together with a terrible impact.

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The collision happened about 11:30. No. 70, the regular eastbound freight left Ottawa around 11 in charge of Conductor W. Summers, Engineer W. Cooper and Brakesman W.R. Douglas. It was proceeding at a high rate of speed as the crew understood they had the right of way and that the track ahead was quite clear. Suddenly the fast moving freight collided with a shunting engine, on its way to Ottawa, and also running rapidly. This engine had been coming from Hawkesbury, was driven by Engineer Alexander Dewar, and was on the way here to allow certain repairs to be made to it.

More.  
Inquest to be held.

*04/07/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Carlsbad Springs*

Long account of the inquest into the wreck at Carlsbad Springs.  
Train 1337 was making its way for Ottawa from Oxford (sic) - had a clearance from South Indian to Rideau Junction.  
Inquest postponed until the next day.

*05/07/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Carlsbad Springs*

Detailed account of coroners inquest.

"We find that the late William R. Douglas came to his death in St. Luke's Hospital on June 23, 1907. The death was due to a collision of trains 70 and 1337 near Carlsbad Springs.

"We further find that the collision was due to a misreading of a time table owing to a defective light in the cab of engine 1337.

"We further believe that if the headlights had been properly displayed on train No. 70 the collision might have been averted. We would strongly recommend that all stations on the main line of a railway system be open day and night and that a responsible person should be on duty there."

*10/08/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Union Station*

New plans submitted to premier for magnificent railway depot.  
August 13, 1907 - station plans approved by Deputy Minister.

*27/08/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Chateau Laurier*

Premier approves plan for hotel on Major's Hill Park.

*02/10/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Union Station*

Grand Trunk will refuse to join in any project to remove Corry block at any expense to the company. More.

*26/10/1907 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Union Station*

Station and Hotel Construction Begins

City Council almost Unanimously in Favour of Grand Trunk Terms

By a vote of twenty to four Major's Hill Park Site is approved.

Sod will be broken at two o'clock today. More.

Monday 28 Oct. edition contains a description and a photograph of the ceremony. Mayor D'Arcy Scott turns the first sod. A nickel plated duplicate of the tool used by the sappers in excavating the Rideau Canal was used.

*13/02/1908 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

With drawing.

The above shows what the G.T.R. now proposes for the big hotel and Central depot promised the city in return for fixed assessments for fifteen and twenty years respectively. The buildings are both considerably reduced in size from what was proposed to council first and promised by the G.T.R. authorities. More.

*17/02/1908 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Hawthorne*

See account in accident file.

*15/05/1908 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

New Central station plans submitted by G.T.R. Pictures etc. More.

*10/09/1908 Ottawa Citizen Alexandria Central Depot*

The contract for tearing down the old concrete and brick dwellings in the yards behind the Central station was awarded to Mr. J. Hudson of Ottawa and yesterday morning work was commenced. Superintendent Donaldson informed the Citizen definitely that it was the intention to erect new freight sheds about where the two old buildings have stood. He had no information as to when the work would be resumed on the baggage annex to the station, the foundation of which was laid by John Quinlan and company.

*29/09/1908 Ottawa Citizen Alexandria Central Depot*

The baggage annex for the new G.T.R. station will be completed this fall and will be occupied for station purposes and it is hoped to have the foundation for the hotel completed before the winter puts an end to building operations--

Annex will be completed this fall. The tracks will then be moved over, the annex used as a station and trains will start from there.

Hotel etc.--

*10/05/1909 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Central Depot*

The present stone building which has so long done duty for a central station at Ottawa will be demolished as soon as the baggage annex and power house, which is being erected now beside it, is completed. The new annex will be of concrete and brick with sandstone facings. It will be two stories high, with the upper floor being for offices and the ground floor for baggage rooms. Local labor is being given preference on the work, which is expected to be finished by September. Upon its completion the furniture and fittings of the present stone station will be moved into it and work on the new building will commence.

*13/05/1909 Chesterville Record Alexandria Ottawa Union*

A civic building permit for the erection of an power station and baggage annex has been taken out by the GTR at Ottawa. Work was commenced on the annex some days ago. Of the \$50,000 to be expended as stated in the permit, from \$10,000 to \$12,000 probably will be used for relaying the tracks and work required in the yards.

*01/06/1909 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Chateau Laurier*

Shows drawing of Chateau Laurier and new passenger station.

*19/08/1909 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

The work of lowering the level of the site for the new station to the required extent will be completed this week and work on the foundation will be started immediately. A stone crusher has been placed in position which will crush nearly all the stone which has been blasted out. The crushed material will be used in the concrete. From the crusher the crushed stone will be elevated to a scaffold that has recently been erected and thus the securing of the stone for the mixing operation will be made easy. An opening will be made on the bridge railing and thus it will be possible for teams hauling materials to the works to back up to the scaffold that the waggons may be unloaded.

*01/09/1909 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Central depot*

The roof of the historic old building that has served as the G.T.R. station for so long is being partially removed today. Though the roof has weathered the storms of over half a century, the workmen find the rafters and sheeting to be perfectly sound.

*02/09/1909 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Central Depot*

Workmen today began tearing down the old Central depot. The excavation work is being rushed and on the hotel site men are again at work excavating for the foundations. There is great activity in both places.

Several tons of old railroad records are being moved today from the old G.T.R. depot building, which is being torn down. Each page of the old records is very valuable and much care is being taken in the work of transferring them from the dusty files to their new receptacles in the station annex.

**15/09/1909**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Ottawa Union*

The first car of steel for the frame of the new G.T.R. station has arrived in the city and is being worked into the foundation of the building. It is just nine weeks ago that the first sod was turned on the site of the new station. Today the foundation walls on the north end and on portions of the east and west sides are completed, workmen were obliged to work down nearly five feet through solid rock to reach the required level.

**13/10/1909**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Ottawa Union*

The stone work on the new station was started yesterday. Several cars of granite have arrived and this quantity will be used up immediately in the first course on the west side of the new building on the portion of the foundation which is now complete. The course of granite will be followed with Indiana limestone.

**12/11/1909**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Ottawa Union*

The big derrick used in hoisting the large blocks of stone to walls of the new Central Depot smashed yesterday at about 10:20 while lifting one of the biggest blocks of stone.

The derrick is gauged to lift two tons, and the stone on the cable is said to weigh about that much.

**25/11/1909**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Chateau Laurier*

An unusual incident occurred yesterday between the C.P.R. and G.T.R. companies. The Railway Commission recently approved of the Grand Trunk building a siding from their yards to the Chateau Laurier site crossing the C.P.R. property at the Dufferin Bridge. The siding is required to facilitate the moving of building material from the yards to the hotel site and was to be built for the convenience of the Fuller Construction Co.

Work was commenced on the siding and the rails were laid to a point where it was necessary, in order to go further, to cross C.P.R. property. At this point yesterday the men employed on the siding were met by a C.P.R. constable who threatened with arrest any man who would drive a spike on the property. As a result of the stand taken by the C.P.R. it will be difficult for the Fuller Co. to move the several carloads of steel and stone that are now standing on the sidings in the yards.

Papers Not Served.

The Canadian Pacific officials have no reason to give for their actions in the matter. Mr. Spencer, local superintendent, was spoken to this morning and he would give nothing out in regard to the matter. He stated that the constable was on the spot as a result of his orders. Further than this he declined to discuss the matter. Mr. Morley Donaldson, of the G.T.R. could offer no explanation for the actions of the C.P.R. in refusing to acknowledge the Railway Committee decision in the matter.

Work on the Chateau Laurier will doubtless be seriously held back until such time as the C.P.R. may be forced to permit the construction siding to be built across its property.

While it appears that the Railway Commission has approved of the spur line into the Chateau Laurier over the C.P.R. track, official papers have not yet been served. Inquiry at the Railway Commission office this morning elicited the information that the order will be served to-day or tomorrow.

**26/11/1909**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Chateau Laurier*

In regard to the spur line which the G.T.R. wants to build from the Central station to where men are working building the Chateau Laurier, and which would necessitate the passing over C.P.R. property, the formal order of the Board of Railway Commissioners allowing this will probably reach the C.P.R. authorities tomorrow.

The Journal told yesterday of the G.T.R. attempting to build this siding and of the threat that workmen would be arrested if they drove a spike on C.P.R. property. From what can be learned there will be no great delay.

Draft order.

An official at the Railway Commission office this morning explained to the Journal that some weeks ago the Board (composed of Judge Mabee and Messrs. Scott and McLean) issued a draft order which practically allows the G.T.R. to cross the C.P.R. property.

The final official order to the C.P.R. was not issued and has not been yet; and thus the C.P.R. is quite within its legal rights in refusing to allow the G.T.R. workmen on their property until they get it. A copy of the draft order was some time ago sent to the G.T.R. solicitor in Montreal and one to the C.P.R.

Only trifling

It was explained at the Railway Commission office that there was no difference between the Board and either of the railways; if anything it was only a trifling matter between the G.T.R. and the C.P.R. The Board had made an order, and before long those concerned would be notified as to that order.

Mr. Donaldson, superintendent of the G.T.R. division here, and Mr. Spencer, in charge of the Ottawa division of the C.P.R., today, had nothing for publication in addition to what was stated yesterday.

**26/11/1909**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Moose Creek*

Work is at once to be started on two new railway stations which the Grand Trunk authorities will erect. One will be at Moose Creek and the other at Heneysburg near Coteau. The foundations will be of concrete and the superstructures of wood.

**29/11/1909**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Chateau Laurier*

Railway Clash Delaying Work

The clash between the Grand Trunk and the C.P.R. over the former's proposed spur line from the yards to the site of the Chateau Laurier over the latter's property has not yet been definitely settled and consequently the contractors at the new hotel are experiencing much inconvenience in waiting until a settlement can be reached. They are unable to begin the steel construction work until such time as the rails have been laid into the property over which the many carloads of building materials may be hauled.

--matter now rests with the solicitors--

**13/12/1909**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Chateau Laurier*

The Grand Trunk has removed the switch and rails connecting the C.P.R. with the Chateau Laurier on the complaint of the C.P.R. This is the spur line which caused considerable difficulty between the two companies recently.

The arrangement as it was, was considered as interfering with the work of the C.P.R. main line.

The G.T.R. will make a change which will give access to the Chateau Laurier and at the same time not interfere with the C.P.R. main line.

**10/01/1910**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Chateau Laurier*

Work on the construction of the Chateau Laurier will be shut down at the end of the week or thereabouts and will not be resumed until April. This was the information given out today at the office of the Geo. Fuller Company, the contractors in charge of the building. This is the result of the Dominion Bridge Company being unable to supply steel.

**11/01/1910**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Union Station*

The new power and heating plant at the Grand Trunk station, which has been in the course of construction for several months, is nearly completed. Fifty men have been employed on the building which is 100 by 65 feet square. Machinery of the latest pattern will be installed in the building.

**09/02/1910**     *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Union station*

The new Grand Trunk station is rapidly nearing completion and the conglomeration of steel and stone and timber that occupied the site a few months ago is slowly but surely being worked into a graceful building which, when completed, promises to be one of the most attractive railway stations in Canada. The contractors will begin the work of plastering in the building in a few days. Other interior work has been going on for some time.

09/02/1910 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Chateau Laurier*

It was thought some time ago that the Geo. A. Fuller Company, the contractors in charge of the Chateau Laurier would be forced to discontinue the steel construction work because of the belief that a steady supply of steel was not to be obtained from the Dominion Bridge Co. at Montreal. The difficulty has been averted and it is probable that the steel work will be finished by spring. Fifty men are now employed and the contractors have on hand 200 tons or more of the material and there are prospects for a steady supply.

28/03/1910 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Union station*

The Grand Trunk Company is making rapid progress in the construction of the concrete wall on the left bank of the Rideau Canal. There are now over eighty men employed in the work and it is stated that more will be engaged if available. When complete the wall will be twelve hundred feet long being the entire distance between the bridges. Though the work was begun only on the 12th of February, already three hundred feet are finished; and if the weather continued favorable and sufficient labor can be engaged, Mr. Robinson hopes to complete the work before the first of May when the canal, it is expected, will be opened for navigation.

25/05/1910 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

Mr. C.M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk, today gave emphatic denial to the report that the company would double track the road between Montreal and Ottawa. He said that this move had not been discussed and furthermore that traffic did not warrant it.

25/06/1910 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Union Station*

At the present rate of progress the concrete work on Chateau Laurier will be completed about the third week in August, thus closing in the building. The rough work on the flooring is done and the finishing touches, the tessellated paving etc. will be begun as soon as the walls are completed. Similar progress is being made on the new station. The finishing work on the walls and ceilings will be begun presently and will be rushed through very rapidly. Very satisfactory work is being done on the lower tunnel, which will be 7 x 8 feet and 238 feet long. The lower tunnel will be used for the transmission of electric and steam power to the Chateau from the power house at the south of the station. This tunnel will be 28 feet below the surface of Rideau street. At present there are 30 men working in the tunnel, drilling and blasting in the bedrock. The management hope to finish the rough work on both the power tunnel and the passenger tunnel before October. The finishing work will be carried on and probably completed before Christmas. The passenger tunnel will be the other tunnel. It will be about the same length and will be 8 x 11. It will be ornately finished.

19/08/1910 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Vars*

Dr. W.A. Empey of Vars Shot by Laborer Yesterday

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For two hours after the accident Dr. Empey was without medical aid. Dr. Chevrier of Embrum and Dr. Woods arrived about 2.30 in the afternoon. Arrangements were also made for a special train from Ottawa. On this travelled Dr. Webster and Dr. Graham of the Protestant General Hospital. The trip was made in seventeen minutes. On the arrival of the physicians it was arranged to bring the wounded man back to Ottawa. He showed some anxiety on this point, for just before dying he asked about the departure of the train.

31/01/1911 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Deep Cut*

Superintendent Morley Donaldson of the Grand Trunk Railway said today that the removal of the coal chutes near the deep cut would probably be part of the plan for the construction by the railway of new and additionally large shops in Ottawa. The problem of coaling the engines was a big one, he stated, and some means would have to be found to take the place of the coal chutes. But, during the summer, they would, no doubt, be removed.

01/06/1911 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Union station*

Had to tear down some of the station.

Work on the new Central station has been set back owing to time lost in tearing down two arches at the rear of the edifice. It is understood that the architect's objection to these two particular arches because they were too flat and therefore not strong enough to carry the material to be placed above them. A large gang of plasterers are at work within the building and the work is being rushed with all haste.

13/07/1911 *Chesterville Record* *Alexandria* *Maxville*

Maxville fire - destroys GTR station platforms and five boxcars loaded with pressed hay.

03/08/1911 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Central station*

Mayor Hopewell is daily hoping to get a letter from Mr. Hays, of the G.T.R. in reply to one he sent to him asking what progress is being made at the Central station. The mayor is anxious that provision should be made for plenty of room at the station when the Duke of Connaught arrives here. If the station is not finished in time it is likely that some arrangements will be made whereby a temporary platform could be erected in some part of the city in which there are Grand Trunk tracks, possibly in the vicinity of Elgin street.

17/08/1911 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Central station*

Mr. M. Donaldson, superintendent of the Ottawa division of the G.T.R. has assured the civic reception committee that the railway authorities will cooperate with the city in the reception to the Duke of Connaught. The new station will probably be formally opened on the day the new governor general arrives. The intention on the part of the G.T.R. officials is to attend to the part of the demonstration at the station. The welcome will probably be held in the large waiting room at the station which will accommodate 600 or 700, though whether Mayor Hopewell will give the city's address there or at Parliament Hill is not known yet. More.

21/08/1911 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Chateau Laurier*

--an employee of the Dominion Bridge Company, was pushing a hand car, loaded with structural steel, when his foot slipped and he fell under the car which, passing over his leg, broke it.--

06/09/1911 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Central station*

The removal of several of the local departments of the Grand Trunk Railway from the temporary station where they are now housed to the new station will, in all probability, says Mr. Morley Donaldson, superintendent of the Ottawa division of the Grand Trunk, positively take place about next month. About the end of September he will be in a position to say the last word on the matter. Most of the necessary finishings are completed in the new quarters but a few final touches are yet to be done.

02/10/1911 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Union Station*

The large refrigerator to be installed in the restaurant in the new Grand Trunk station arrived on Saturday. The sections alone required a car alone to themselves. Some idea of its size is obtained when it will take a staff of men about a month to install it and put the sections together. A large ammonia plant is to be used in running this huge ice-box, which will be divided into three compartments of different temperatures. The kitchen is nearly all ready for operation and the restaurant is expected to open in about a month's time. Aside from the passenger traffic the restaurant should receive a liberal patronage from those employed in the various offices of the new station.

*06/11/1911 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

It is positively assured that the Grand Trunk station will be opened by the middle of November. The different rooms are being furnished and the lighting fixtures are in place.

The temporary station will be converted into a baggage room at the latter part of next week. Everything will be of the latest pattern and a new system of baggage checking will be introduced.

*27/11/1911 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

Central station opening at Xmas.

The general appearance of the new Central station is rapidly assuming a different aspect. The marble work which was completed some time ago is now being treated with an acid for cleaning it and the work already cleaned has a fine appearance.

Work in connection with the ticket office is also receiving attention. This is to be fitted up inside with red oak woodwork. There are to be six wickets for the sale of tickets. So far nothing can be learned about the division of the office, and as there is no partition specified in the plan of it, it is likely that the directors of the Grand Trunk and the C.P.R. will have to call a meeting to decide which part of the office each will occupy.

The mammoth refrigerator, which has taken six weeks to install, was tested with a "water test" this week and worked very satisfactorily. The artificial ice plant to work this huge ice box has not yet arrived from the manufacturers in New York, nor is it likely to arrive before the first of the year. Meanwhile, should the restaurant open and require the use of the refrigerator, the ordinary ice will be used. The kitchen department is being rushed and will be ready for the opening of the new station. In the restaurant, which is situated to the left of the rear entrance, there will be the most improved appliances. All the cooking will be done on the second floor, and the food sent down by means of a "dumb waiter," which will be operated by electricity.

The train shed is also being rapidly erected and will have a fine appearance when completed. The section closest to the annex is nearly completed and will be used as soon as the roof is put on. The shed is all of steel and will have a fireproof glass top. The contractors are trying to have either station open for Xmas and should succeed, as all the work is now well under way.

*06/12/1911 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

C.P.R. and G.T.R. reach agreement on use if Union station.

*05/01/1912 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

Two steel workers injured during construction of the train shed. More.

*17/01/1912 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

Delay in the opening of the new station. Opening certain within the next two months. Delay in delivery of materials. More.

*27/05/1912 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Gas*

The Ottawa Gas Company have decided to build an auxiliary plant in Ottawa East. Mr. Thomas Ahearn, president of the company, has bought eight and one half acres of land on Lees Avenue, close to the civic incinerator site and intends to commence immediately on the erection of the plant, with a view to completing it before winter comes.

Six large gasometers will be installed as well as all the requisites of a thoroughly modern gas works. The property is close to the Grand Trunk Railway and a siding will be put into the works. By being so close to the railroad it will enable coal to be supplied at the minimum expense.

*29/05/1912 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Central Station*

C.N.R. is negotiating to use the G.T.R. Central station on the completion of the line from Ottawa to Toronto.

*03/06/1912 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Union*

Chateau Laurier now open. Sir Wilfred Laurier first name on register.--

The new Central Station, which is one of the finest of its kind in eastern Canada, was also thrown open to the public Saturday.

*14/06/1912 Renfrew Mercury Alexandria Ottawa Union*

Article about Union Station and Chateau Laurier.

*06/07/1912 Ottawa Journal Alexandria*

The special Grand Trunk train which left Ottawa at 8.15 o'clock on Wednesday morning, July 3, carrying 200 members of the American Library Association, arrived in Montreal at 11 o'clock the same morning, making a record run, which was very much appreciated by the delegates and their friends, who were warm in their praise of the Grand Trunk service.

*16/07/1912 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Ottawa Gas*

Gas plant likely to be removed from King Edward avenue to Lees avenue provided agreement can be reached with G.T.R. regarding siding. Article.

*27/03/1913 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Maxville*

G.T.R. train 23 derailed completely at Christie's Pit, between Greenfield and Maxwell (sic).

*23/02/1914 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Pilon siding*

G.T.R. train left track at Pilon siding. More.

*14/05/1914 Chesterville Record Alexandria St, Polycarpe*

The GTR station at St. Polycarpe was destroyed by fire at five o'clock Tuesday morning. The damage is estimated at \$4,000. Sparks from a passing engine are believed to have caused the blaze.

*21/08/1914 The Toronto World Alexandria Ottawa Union*

Brand New Train Service

Commencing August 18 ?? passenger train service is being operated between Toronto and Ottawa over the new lines of the Canadian Northern Railway, this service being daily except Sunday, trains arriving and departing from the Central Station, Ottawa which is located in the heart of the city. New equipment is used throughout, consisting of electric lighted coaches and café parlour cars.

The opening of this new line provides a service between Toronto, Ottawa, Richmond, Smiths Falls, Brockville, Portland, Chaffey's Locks and stations on the Brockville, Westport and Northwestern Railway, in addition to Napanee, Belleville, Trenton, Brighton, Cobourg, Port Hope and Oshawa which points are now served by the double daily except Sunday, and the very convenient week-end service of the Canadian Northern Railway

*11/09/1917 Ottawa Journal Alexandria Vars*

Five killed at a crossing at Vars. Details to come later.

17/09/1917 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Vars*

Ten Miles an Hour at Vars till Probe is Over

Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the Board of railway Commissioners has instituted an inquiry into the railway crossing tragedy at Vars last week in which Rev. Dr. Mavey and four others travelling in an automobile, lost their lives.

Until a decision has been arrived at regarding the cause of the accident the trains crossing the highway at Vars will only travel at a speed of ten miles an hour.

29/09/1926 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Ottawa Union*

His excellency, the Right Honoutable Viscount Wllingdon, the Governor General will arrive at the Union Station at 11 o'clock next Monday morning.

28/10/1926 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Ottawa Union*

11 car special CNR train for Queen Marie of Rumania arrives from Toronto and is backed into Union station at 10.30.

09/07/1927 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Ottawa East*

C.N.R. will close down the Ottawa East shops. 61 jobs lost. Goes into effect on Jul 15. Full article. Veterans going to Stratford, Montreal and Brockville.

01/08/1927 *Ottawa Citizen* *Alexandria* *Vars*

PASSENGER TRAIN SIDESWIPES FREIGHT AT VARS

Crash into coal car throws huge engine off line

Engineer P. Lalonde of Montreal slightly injured at Vars station this morning in jump to save himself.

Saw crash was coming after rounding curve

Passengers on well-filled C.N.R. train escape with severe shaking up. A wreck, fortunately unattended with serious injury to passengers or either of the train crews, occurred at Vars station, about six o'clock this morning, when the Montreal bound train No. 2, which left this city at 5.25, sideswiped a freight train bound from the Metropolis to Ottawa, the engine being derailed, and the engineer, Mr. P. Lalonde, of Montreal, was slightly injured.

The freight was pulling into the siding at Vars station, and six of its long string of cars were still on the main line when the Ottawa passenger train bore down on it, and with a crash the engine hurtled into a big gondola coal car, climbed it and was derailed. The baggage coach and passenger coaches remained on the track.

Engineer P. Lalonde of Montreal, at the throttle, saw that a collision was impending--he rounded the curve at that point--and after applying the emergency jumped with his fireman.

Engineer Lalonde in jumping landed heavily, striking his head on a rail, and cutting it badly. He received medical attention and was brought back to Ottawa with the passengers, reaching here at 9.20.

His fireman, Mr. W. Little, also of Montreal, sustained a few bruises, and the passengers in the train, which was well filled, beyond a bad fright and a severe shaking up escaped unscathed.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Page 2.

CRASH INTO COAL CAR THROWS HUGE ENGINE OFF LINE

(Continued from Page One)

Trains Re-routed

Trains en-route to Montreal this morning following the accident were re-routed via Rockland and No. 47 from New York and Montreal is held up at the Montreal end of the wreck, the debris from which a wrecking crew and apparatus from Montreal is now engaged in removing.

It is expected by C.N.R. officials that the line will be open again some time this afternoon.

Due To Heavy Fog

While there is no official statement at present owing to the fact that the wreck occurred on the Montreal division, it is stated that the accident was due to a heavy fog which prevailed early this morning, and the engineer of the freight train failing to get his train clear of the main line.

Fortunately, Engineer Lalonde was in time to see the freight cars on the track ahead of him, a sufficient distance away to permit of his applying the emergency brakes before he and his fireman jumped, and the momentum of the train, which had been travelling at a moderate speed, owing to the fog, was considerably lessened when the crash came.

Immediately, the big locomotive struck the gondola of the freight train into which it climbed and was derailed, two other freight cars were thrown over on their sides, and in the passenger train frightened passengers ran hurriedly for the doors.

Passengers Calmed.

The train crew, with porters, two of whom were thrown heavily on their faces at the impact, but escaped with bruises, assisted in calming the passengers, two or three of whom received severe bruises, when thrown forward by the shock, and one lady, a resident of Montreal, name unknown, collapsed, but recovered later.

The only other person injured as far as can be learned was Mr. A.P. Maloney, conductor of the freight train, who was thrown through the glass in his van, and was cut about the hands, as he shot them out to protect himself.

It is stated unofficially that when the accident occurred, the engineer of the freight train, which had also been delayed by the fog, was in the act of drawing his train into the siding when it was struck by the oncoming passenger engine.

01/08/1927 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Vars*

Wreck at Vars. Passenger train side swiped a freight.

05/08/1927 *Ottawa Citizen* *Alexandria* *Union Station*

Small crowd when princes board train

At 3.40 o'clock this morning theprince f Wales, Prince George and their party, returning from the Country Club party, boarded their train which was run in on track 6 at Union Station. About fifty persons were at the station , mostly police, station attendants and taxi drivers.

From shortly after midnight on through the early hours of the morning, Deputy Chef Jiseph Gilhooly of the city police, in company with a squad of men, remained around the station entrance awaiting the Princes' party. R.C.M.P. and railway police officers too were there, but the combined forces, capable of handling quite a large crowd, found little to do but be among the onlookers.

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Tribute to bravery

President Cosgrave said he wished to associate himself with the remarks of premier King in his message of sympathy to the bereaved. In a fine passafe President Cosgrave then paid tribute to those in the accident. "I have witnessed some stirring incidents," he said, "but never finer examples of bravery and coolness." There was not the least bit of panic, and one man lying with a broken leg, kept inquiring: Are the guests all right? The country that produces men like that is bound to be all right."

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<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=tTk0AAAIBAJ&sjid=kvUIAAAIBAJ&pg=1486,5330355&dq=cosgrave+railway&hl=en>

Welcomed as the representative of the youngest of the British Dominions, William T. Cosgrave, head of the Irish Free State, faced a light program today, his last at Canada's capital.

Seemingly none the worse for the derailment of his train yesterday, in which one man was killed, Mr. Cosgrave had only a luncheon engagement ahead of him before he entrained for New York via Montreal. During the morning hours a drive around the city was the only event on his schedule.

President Cosgrave aided in the work of rescue when his train jumped a switch at Limogese (sic) about 23 miles from Ottawa, while making 55 miles an hour. He aided in extricating the injured from the overturned engine and cars and sent a telegram of condolence to the family of J.A. Boyd, railroad foreman of Montreal, who died at the throttle of the Presidential train. His private car left the rails, but did not overturn, and no member of his party was injured.

Following an enthusiastic welcome at the station, Mr. Cosgrave was taken to the Parliament House where Premier MacKenzie King called attention to his presence in the gallery as members cheered.

In the evening he was guest at a dinner given by Premier King. Tribute was paid at the dinner to President Cosgrave's coolness at the time of the accident and his work in aiding the injured and calming the fright of the other passengers.

Not work of plotters

Although the Royal Canadian mounted police and railway inspectors were convinced today that the derailment of President Cosgrave's train yesterday was purely accidental, the guard about the head of the Irish Free State was increased.

Railway officials said that investigation of the wreck, which cost the life of a railway foreman, had definitely put to rest rumors that it was caused by plotters against the Irish president.

[http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19280131&id=zp8hAAAIBAJ&sjid=\\_pkFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3092,5771838](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19280131&id=zp8hAAAIBAJ&sjid=_pkFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3092,5771838)

Sleigh runner caused wreck.

C.N.R. officials establish cause of special train derailment after searching probe

Mr. A.E. Warren, general manager, Central region, Canadian National Railways and engineering and other officers at noon today definitely established the cause of the derailment of the special train carrying President W.T. Cosgrave to Ottawa.

A searching investigation was carried out immediately following upon the accident and continued throughout the night. Evidence was given that two horses drawing a heavy log sleigh had run away from the loading siding at Limoges a few minutes before the arrival of the special train.

One of the runners of the sleigh jammed in and wedged over the switch point at the east end of Limoges yard, some distance from the station. The horses were later brought to a standstill and returned to their driver,

The incident attracted no special attention in the rural community, and it was not known that the runner of the sleigh had turned the switch forcing the points open by the force of its impact, but as a result, when President Cosgrave's special train came along a few minutes later, it went through the switch on to the passing track, and by reason of the sharp turn became derailed. The sleigh and the switch were examined by experts this morning and it was established by the paint marks on the switch and the marks on the runner of the sleigh, along with evidence given by local witnesses, that this had been without doubt the cause of the accident.

Unforgettable scenes as Pres. Cosgrave stands beside dying engineer

After he and members of his party have miraculous escape in wreck of special train at Limoges, near Ottawa, Irish Free State Chief Executive plays gallant and leading part in rescue work.

Wreck due to locomotive traveling at high speed splitting switch. One observer thinks rail broken. Dr. Stoness of Vars makes epic trip on hand car. One dead nine injured.

President William T. Cosgrave of the Irish Free State, when he returns to Ireland will carry with him a vivid remembrance of the thrilling experience which befell him, when the special C.N.R. train on which he and his party, with railway officials and newspapermen, were travelling from Montreal to this city yesterday, was wrecked at a point just east of Limoges, formerly South Indian station, at 12.05 noon.

That President Cosgrave and all members of the party escaped unscathed, in view of the terrific smash which occurred when the train, travelling at fifty-five miles an hour, became derailed, is considered by railroad authorities to be little short of miraculous.

Indeed, grave fears had been entertained as to their safety when the news reached the capital of the wreck, specifically when word went around that a special train with nurses and doctors aboard had been despatched to the scene.

The wreck, stated by C.N.R. officials to have been due to the locomotive splitting a switch, and crashing into some boxcars on a siding, then demolishing a granary near the track before turning over in the adjacent field, brought death to one of the train crew, and injuries to nine others, one of them seriously.

The dead man, Pilot Engineer A. Boyd of Montreal, who was at the throttle of the big locomotive speeding at fifty-five miles an hour to the Capital was crushed to death in the wreck of the engine, and thrown from the cab when the locomotive overturned.

Three teams of horses killed when granary demolished by locomotive.

The most seriously injured of the train crew, was brakeman Frank Lafleur, who when the ?? came was sent flying to the ?? of the car and his right leg was broken when it became wedged ? a seat.

Engineer R.G. Day and Fireman Legault escaped with injuries to their heads and the others, dining car employees, H. Sadler, H. McIntosh, ? A. McLaurin and B. ? were only slightly injured by being thrown about when the dining car fell over on its side. All of the injured were from Montreal.

Three teams of horses standing at the granary near the station were killed outright when the engine demolished it.

President Cosgrave and the members of his suite escaped unhurt, although they were badly shaken, and thrown to the floor of their car when the crash came, and their escape is ?almost miraculous.

Entire train derailed.

The train which was composed of heavy locomotive and four coaches derailed entirely. the engine and tender were torn apart and the dining car turned over in the ditch. The other cars remained upright, although that containing President Cosgrave and his party came near to ? the fate of the dining car and was badly smashed.

Locomotive uncoupled

That there was not greater loss of life and that the distinguished visitor and members of his party escaped ? death or at least serious injury, is attributed to the fact that when the locomotive jumped the switch and crashed into the box cars on the siding, it became uncoupled from the train and continued on its mad ? alone to crash into the granary.

President Cosgrave apparently realised the crisis through which he had ?, by the statement he made when he and the members of his ? had recovered somewhat from the shock, "God in His Mercy has ? the rest of us."

? about the president of the Irish State government when the ? crash came which betokened something untoward had happened to declare that he displayed the ? sang froid, and with Dr. J.J. ?, of Chicago, his personal physician, helped render first aid.

The distinguished statesman was very distressed upon hearing of the tragic death of engineer Boyd, and had a telegram of condolence at once dispatched to his widow in Montreal.

Rumors Disposed

Sinister rumors were at first abroad to the effect that the wreck was an attempt on the life of the distinguished visitor, but an immediate investigation by C.N.R. officials on the spot, and by officers of the R.C.M.P. despatched to the scene on a special train, disposed of these.

Mr. J.P. Hanratty, of the C.N.R. Natural Resources department aboard the wrecked train, stated that the cause of the wreck had been undetermined, but that there was absolutely no ground for any assumption that the switch which figured in the disaster had been tampered with.

"The cause of the wreck is one of the mysteries of railroading," said Mr. Hanratty. "The regular motor train due at Limoges at 11.16 had passed this switch less than an hour before we came to it, and there had been no movement at that point prior to our arrival. It is certain, however, that the wreck of the train was due to an accident, the cause of which only a technical investigation will reveal."

The late pilot engineer of the train, Mr. A. Boyd was one of the most experienced engineers in the employ of the company.

Threw on Emergency

According to Engineer R.G. Day, who was in the cab of the locomotive with his fireman Mr. A. Legault, just prior to the engine taking the siding, he saw Engineer Boyd throw on the emergency brakes, thus indicating that he had either seen something on the track ahead or else realized there was something wrong. Immediately the engine took the siding and he remembered nothing more until he and his fireman were crawling from the wrecked locomotive.

As soon as word of the wreck reached the city, a special train with Doctors McKinnon and Gardner, and railway and R.C.M.P. officials was made ready and left within ten minutes, making a quick run to the scene of the accident. There the injured were given first aid, especially brakeman Lafleur who was suffering intensely and the return trip was made to Ottawa where a huge crowd had gathered, attracted by the news of the accident to the presidential train, and who gave President Cosgrave and those who accompanied him a great welcome.

The special train bearing the distinguished visitors to the Capital was travelling at a speed of fifty-five miles an hour when the accident occurred.

When the train plunged into the open switch the engine rolled over on its left side and crashed into a line of standing box cars. The coupler between tender and diner gave way and the dining car rolled over three times on the right side of the rails. President Cosgrave's private car came next and wobbled dangerously, but did not overturn. Behind this was the press car which remained on the rails.

President Renders Aid.

Immediately after the crash, President Cosgrave, who had been chatting in his coach, looked to the safety of his sister-in-law and her husband who were in the dining car. Learning that they were safe, the Irish statesman plodded through snow drifts almost waist deep, going from place to place visiting the injured and inquiring as to their hurts. The president then took an active part in the direction of the rescue work and offered his valuable advice.

A Touching Scene



As Pilot Engineer Boyd was breathing his last Abbee V.M. Pillion of South Indian arrived just in time to recite prayers in unison with another clergyman. During the reciting of the prayers the president and his minister stood with bared heads. After Boyd had passed away President Cosgrave gave the priest a photograph of himself and inscribed upon it: "In Memory of your devoted services to the dying in the regrettable accident at Limoges."

Doctor on Hand-car

As the rescue work was going on a black bobbing speck appeared on the tracks coming toward the wreck. The approach was watched eagerly and the speck turned out to be Dr. F. Stoness of Vars, who, on learning of the smash, leaped to a hand car, and desparately pumped his way to the scene to render any assistance possible. Dr. Stoness came a distance of eight miles, braving the cold wind, and was well nigh exhausted when he pulled up at the wreck.

"We were lucky", said Conductor Albert Johnston, when he stepped into the check room at Union station after the special train sent from Ottawa arrived back in the Capital. The conductor received only a slight cut on one of his hands.

-- more eyewitness accounts of the wreck.

A wrecking gang succeeded in getting the right of way clear by ten o'clock last evening so that traffic to and from Ottawa and Montreal was not nterfered to any extent.

-- more eyewitness accounts of the wreck.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=tK0AAAAIABAJ&sjid=kvUIAAAAIABAJ&pg=3380,5417542&dq=limoges&hl=en>

**14/05/1928**      *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*                      *Ottawa Union*

Long Concrete Wall Finished by Railways

2900 Feet Long and Sixteen and a Half feet High

The plans recently outlined in parliament by Premier King for the creation of a large central park in the Capital include a contribution which is being made by the two big railway systems of the country. In the center of this new area stands the Central Station and the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railways are carrying out improvements to that structure which will play a material part in giving visitors to the city a favorable impression on their entrance.

Part of the improvements planned by the Dominion government and the Federal District Commission relates to the Rideau canal and the eastern wall of this canal is a part of the Central Station. A reconstruction of this wall has recently been completed by the two railways and will form part of the permanent improvements of this area. The reconstruction included the erection of a concrete wall twenty-nine hundred feet long and sixteen and a half feet high. The wall is seven and a half inches wide at the top and has a base width of four feet. About six thousand cubic yards of concrete were used in its construction and much of the work was carried out in zero weather during the past winter. Night work was carried on in order to ensure the wall being ready to let water into the canal at the regular time in the spring. The project also necessitated the excavation of about eight thousand cubic yards, thirty percent of which was under water. The concrete wall from Sparks street to the train shed was raised and further improvements were made to the wall of the train shed itself. In carrying out this work it as necessary to change the main tracks within the station temporarily and to use the first track next to the canal for handling pile drivers and other work equipment while the operation was in progress.

These improvements to the canal wall and Central Station will bring this part of the center of the city into harmony with the government plans for the creation of a Confederation Memorial Park and the continuation of the Federal District driveway. When the Russell Hotel, warehouses, and other buildings, which it is intended to demolish have been removed the results will give visitors to Ottawa a favorable opportunity to observe the beautiful driveways on the canal and will provide an unobstructed view between Laurier avenue bridge and the station of the main tower and east block of the parliament buildings.

**14/05/1928**      *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*                      *Union Station*

Long concrete wall finished by railways.

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A reconstruction of this wall has recently been completed by the two railways and will form part of the permanent improvements of this area

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<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=UVstAAAAIABAJ&sjid=nNkFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6483,1024379&dq=train+railway&hl=en>

**26/04/1929**      *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*                      *Ottawa Union*

Nobody missed any trains at Union station this morning according to all the officials. Usually on first business day of daylight saving a few arrive about 55 minutes late.

The clocks in the station of course keep standard time, as do those in uptown railway ticket offices. A sign card "Eastern Standard Time: has been dusted off and put in the usual place one the clocks once more.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=bp4uAAAAIABAJ&sjid=49kFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3524,819617&dq=railway+railroad+train&hl=en>

**26/06/1929**      *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Alexandria*

Switch left open. Train jumps rails

Passenger train from Ottawa Crashes into Freight Cars at Alexandria

Carrying 150 passengers, the Canadian National Railway train which left Ottawa for Montreal at 2.30 yesterday afternoon ran into an open switch near Alexandria station and wrecked a line of freight cars. While at first it looked as if the collision would assume large proportions only one person was injured, A.E. Ricketts, fireman, of Montreal, who sustained a fractured collar bone, severe bruises and internal injuries.

Ran into derailer

When entering Alexandria about 3.45 p.m. The train ran into a derailer, tearing it out of the roadbed and then struck the open switch. After striking the switch the train left the rails and tore up the roadbed.

A freight car containing wheat, the property of D. Markinson's flour mills, was telescoped, the contents scattering all over the track. The train also ran into a string of freight cars and pushed them right over the open end of the siding into the railway station demolishing part of it.

Have Near Escape.

The car digging itself into the roadbed probably saved a more serious collision for it minimized the impact with the freight cars which might have been pushed right through the station. Many people were waiting on the station platform for the arrival of the train and said they had a remarkable escape when the train stopped at the end of the platform. In all three freight cars were destroyed. A number of handcars, used by a section of workmen who were working nearby, were also totally wrecked.

Fireman Ricketts received his injuries through jumping from the engine before it finally came to a standstill. Paul Lalonde, also of Montreal, followed Ricketts but escaped without injury, as did Conductor George Keeler, of Montreal.

No damage was done to the three cars on the passenger train, although the passengers were badly shaken up. As soon as the crash came, G.W. Sheppherd, the station agent, notified Doctors E. Charbonneau, J.T. Rose and M. Markson, and Fire Chief Max Seger. The doctors were quickly on the scene and the fireman, after examination, was taken to the house of J.T. Bottomleym foreman of the Bell Telephone Company. Later he was taken to Montreal where an X-ray examination will be made to ascertain the extent of his injuries.

Alex McNaughton, superintendent of the Montreal division, was called to the scene of the collision and he ordered the train running from Hawkesbury to Glen Robertson to proceed to Alexandria. On arrival, two day coaches and a palour car of the wrecked train were coupled on to it and it proceeded to Coteau Junction where another engine was chartered to take the passengers to Montreal. The passengers arrived there 45 minutes late.

Mr. McNaughton ordered an investigation to be held in Montreal this morning for the purpose of determining who was responsible for the switch being left open. Last night Mr. McNaughton would give no statement regarding the wreck.

Passenger carried right to his farm.

Incident illustrating "Service" on C.N.R. train.

There was much humor in an incident which occurred on a C.N.R. train bound from Montreal to Ottawa last evening, in charge of Conductor P.T. McGovern, 211 Bolton street, together with an illustration of what might be termed real service on the part of the official.

A man who had attended the Bennett rally at Alexandria boarded the train at that station just before it pulled out, and it was evident from his appearance that he had enjoyed the meeting to such an extent that he had celebrated "not wisely but too well".

He was bound for Maxville, two stations up the line, and the conductor, who knew him, had considerable difficulty in preventing him from leaving at the first station, Greenfield, as the passenger's sense of his whereabouts was very much at sea.

Prevented from getting off, he again subsided into slumber, and was not noticed until the train was pulling out of Maxville station, when a newspaper man suddenly remembered hearing the slumberer saying he was going to Maxville. The train was rapidly gathering speed when the conductor happened along, and his attention was drawn to the passenger.

"Well, if he isn't here still", said that official, who without any hesitation, pulled the emergency cord, and the train glided to a standstill and the man was awakened from his slumbers.

As the conductor was leading him to the exit he happened to look out of the window, and the passengers went into roars of laughter when they heard him say; "Well, that's what I call service. We have actually saved him a long walk, for his farmhouse is just across the fields there."

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=BwkuAAAIBAJ&sjid=AtoFAAAAIBAJ&pg=7302,2830449&dq=railway++railroad++train&hl=en>

Must lengthen Laurier Bridge

C.N.R. goes ahead on cutting away embankment adjoining yards

Laurier Avenue bridge will necessarily have to be lengthened when the Canadian National Railways finishes the work of widening its yards, according to opinion expressed in reliable quarters today. The Canadian National at present is cutting away the high embankment on the east side of its yards south of the bridge in order to provide more track space and this operation will go under the east end of the bridge.

At present the bridge is unsafe according to Canadian National counsel who, in presenting an application to the Board of Railway Commissioners, declared that unless repairs to the bridge were made, the structure was in danger of falling. An inspection of the bridge will soon be made and the cost of the inspection will be paid by the Canadian National and the Ottawa Electric.

When the inspection is completed a new hearing will commence before the Board of Railway Commissioners on the application of the Canadian National for repairs and for apportioning the cost of these repairs as between the C.N.R. and the Ottawa Electric.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=WaguAAAIBAJ&sjid=kNoFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3751,8910186&dq=railway++railroad++train&hl=en>

Description of a trip from Ottawa to Montreal.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=ZaguAAAIBAJ&sjid=kNoFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6979,11104234&dq=railway++railroad++train&hl=en>

OER blames for condition of Laurier Bridge.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=eBsvAAAIBAJ&sjid=ONsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=7019,4389330&dq=train++railway++railroad&hl=en>

Urges east end Laurier bridge rebuilt at once.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=eRsvAAAIBAJ&sjid=ONsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4094,4517739&dq=train++railway++railroad&hl=en>

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=eRsvAAAIBAJ&sjid=ONsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4518,4580540&dq=train++railway++railroad&hl=en>

James A. Dean, 48-year-old Canadian National Railways engineer died early last evening in the ambulance while being rushed to the Civic Hospital a few minutes after he had been run over by a yard train in the yards beneath Laurier avenue bridge.

The accident occurred about 7.15 as the yard train was backing south of a siding. At the time the train, of which Dean was the engineer, was in charge of Fireman W.L. Thurlow, 64 Robert street. Dean had left the engine in charge of the fireman while he went to get something to eat. Although there were no known eyewitnesses to the tragedy, it is believed that Dean returned and started to get on board his engine just as it began to move out of the siding with six freight cars, and slipped as he climbed up the steps, falling between the engine and tender.

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<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=pfEuAAAIBAJ&sjid=1tsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6982,753655&dq=post++train+engine&hl=en>

Canadian National crashes into rear of Canadian Pacific in Laurier Ave. yards last night

Four of injured are in Civic Hospital.

Ten persons, nine of them residents of Ottawa, were injured about 9.15 o'clock last night in a rear end collision of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Montreal to Vancouver crack trains in Laurier avenue yards.

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Three coaches of the Canadian Pacific train and two coaches and the engine of the Canadian National were damaged. The observation car of the Canadian Pacific was lifted off the tracks when the Canadian National engine struck it.

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<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=3fcuAAAIBAJ&sjid=VNsfAAAAIBAJ&pg=6432,5376297&dq=train++railway++railroad&hl=en>

Royal Scot attracts many to Union depot.

Famous British train arrives in Ottawa on start of tour in Canada and the United States.

The pride of British railroad engineers and world-famous for its record performances, the Royal Scot train arrived in Ottawa at 10.15 o'clock this morning and is on display at Union station until 9 o'clock tonight. The crack British train is en route to Chicago, having arrived here today from Montreal. It also will visit Toronto and Hamilton.

The Royal Scot left Westmount station at 7.05 a.m. Between mileage 81 and 82, close to Westmount, William Gilbertson, the driver, opened up the throttle of the speedy train and attained a speed of 72.5 miles per hour.

The train stopped at several stations en route between Montreal and Ottawa so that residents of these places might have an opportunity of seeing it. While it was stopped at Vaudreuil, a Pointe Claire school teacher who was inspecting it, was struck by a C.N.R. train and was killed.

Hundreds of people inspected the train in Ottawa during this morning and early afternoon. Large crowds were on hand at all six stations at which the train stopped between Montreal and Ottawa. A mass of enthusiastic humanity, which even exceeded the hopeful expectations of the officials of the C.P.R. and London Midland and Scottish Railway, of which the train is a flier de luxe between London and Edinburgh, went through the cars of the train to see a typical example of the way in which Englishmen travel.

Ornate decorations.

The contrast in size and color with the typical Canadian train was obvious at the station at Ottawa. Both the engine and the decorations of the coaches are much more ornate than on the Canadian trains. The red and gold of the Royal Scot showed up vividly against the deep black of the Canadian trains in the Union station yards.

A C.P.R. pilot who knew the road between Montreal and Ottawa was on hand to guide the British train crew. A number of C.P.R. and L.M.S. officials also accompanied the train on its journey from Montreal.

Among the visitors to Union station to see a breath of railway England was His Excellency the Governor general who greeted members of the train crew and inspected the train. He was attended by Capt. C.G.B. Tryon, A.D.C.

The Royal Scot will leave for Toronto tonight at 9 o'clock daylight saving time.

The C.P.R. officials who travelled with the train from Montreal to Ottawa were H.W. Broadie, overseas passenger manager and J.K. Savage, general superintendent.

The Governor General, the Prime Minister and cabinet were received by John A. McGill general passenger agent of the C.P.R. Ottawa at the station. Both the vice-regal party and Premier Bennett and his ministers evinced a keen interest in The Royal Scot.

The conductor of the train was W.A. Riddle, of the C.P.R. Ottawa and the pilot was W.J. Creighton, also of Ottawa.

Other C.P.R. officials who travelled on the train between Montreal and Ottawa were CA. Wheeler, master mechanic, Montreal; A. Piers, assistant superintendent of motive power, Montreal; H.B. Bowen, chief of the motor car and power department, Montreal and family; H. Smith, divisional master mechanic, Smiths Falls; R.V. Carleton, divisional master mechanic, Montreal, O.G. Teipert, district electrician, Montreal; J.W. Hughes, electrical engineer of Eastern lines, Montreal; R.Thomas chief airbrake inspector; W.H. Bevins, Westinghouse air-brake representative; M.Hay, locomotive foreman, Smiths Falls; W.H. Tully assistant superintendent, Smiths Falls; W. Garland, assistant superintendent, Ottawa.

Upholding a tradition

"The train with a tradition" is the slogan applied to The Royal Scot. For over 70 years a train has left Euston station, London, for Scotland at the present departure time of 10 a.m., although not always under her present name. She celebrated her 70th birthday as the "ten o'clock" on June 1, 1932. The north-bound and the south-bound Royal Scot have covered between them 17,000,000. (miles)

Railroads were very young when the first service between England and Scotland was started. The union of the two countries by rail was one of the early objects of railroad engineers. The first train to make a through journey from London to Glasgow left Euston station at 10 a.m. on February 15, 1848. the overall speed made by the train which is now The Royal Scot was 32.9 miles per hour. She now makes the trip of 400 miles in overall speed of 52.4 miles per hour. The time for the journey has been cut down from 12 hours and ten minutes in 1848 to seven hours and 40 minutes in 1932.

One feature which attracts the attention of travelers from Canada and the United states when comparing British trains with their own is that, although the rail gauge is the same, there is a noticeable difference in height and width, while the locomotives of the North American continent are considerably larger than those employed in Britain.

-- much more Reason for Small Engines etc.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=HukuAAAAIBAJ&sjid=vdsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5248,4862084&dq=royal-scot&hl=en>

16/10/1936 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria*

Admits he robbed railway stations

B.B. harris, special investigator for the C.N.R. announced this morning that a series of railway station break-ins in the Ottawa district had been solved by the confession of Redmond Cote, 25 years of age, of no fixed age, but who said his home was in Ottawa

Cote was wounded in the leg by a revolver shot by C.N.R. police at Valleyfield, Que., last week as he was allegedly attempting to break in the New York Central Railway freight sheds there. He is at present in the Valleyfield hospital and will be committed for trial as soon as he is well enough to appear in Valleyfield court. Mr. Harris stated that Cote admitted breaking into Hawkesbury, Vankleek Hill and St. Polycarp stations. In each case safes were broken open and varying amounts of money stolen.

Cote has previous convictions in Ottawa.

13/09/1937 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Casselman*

Station at Casselman destroyed by fire.

Fire, which was discovered shortly afternoon on Sunday, completely destroyed the C.N.R. station and freight shed at Casselman, 31 miles east of Ottawa. The loss, according to railway officials, is confined to the frame building, 60 feet by 30 feet in size and erected about 30 years ago.

While the cause of the blaze is unknown, it is attributed to defective electric wiring. A passer-by noticed smoke issuing from the freight shed, which had been closed since Saturday, and raised the alarm by sounding the church bell. According to railway officials there were only a few pieces of freight and express in the building and they along with all the tickets and safe were saved.

Armed with a pumper the volunteer brigade attacked the blaze and while they were unable to save the building, prevented the flames from spreading. No delay in traffic on the Ottawa-Montreal line, which runs through Casselman, resulted from the fire.

11/01/1938 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Ottawa Union*

One of the best remembered stories to come from the type-writer of Doug MacKay, killed with nine others in yesterday's airliner crash at Bozeman, Mont., was his description of funeral services for a United States good will flyer in Ottawa.

In July 1927, Lieutenant Thadeus Johnson lost his life in landing as one of an escort to Col. Charles Lindbergh who flew to Ottawa as an expression of goodwill on Canada's 60th Dominion Day.

MacKay covered the funeral service for the Canadian Press. His story concluded with a description of the scene as the train bearing Lieut. Johnson's body pulled out.

"It was then that the Spirit of St. Louis appeared out of the heavy grey sky, moving in great circles over the train as it moved out along the banks of the Rideau canal which were lined with people. Three times Col. Lindbergh circled, with the army fliers not far behind, and on the third time he cut his engine and dived in silence to within a few feet of the train, casting as he did a great armful of peonies".

Engineer Boarding Locomotive Falls, Is Fatally Injured.

James A. Dean, 48-year-old Canadian National Railways engineer died early last evening in an ambulance while being rushed to the Civic Hospital a few minutes after he had been run over by a yard train in the yards beneath Laurier avenue bridge.

The accident occurred about 7.15 p.m. as the yard train was backing south out of a siding. At the time the train, of which Dean was the engineer, was in charge of Fireman W.L. Thurlow of Robert street. Dean had left the engine in charge of the fireman while he went to get something to eat. Although there are no known eyewitnesses to the tragedy, it is believed that Dean returned and started to board his engine just as it began to move out of the siding with six freight cars, and slipped as he climbed up the steps, falling between the engine and the tender.

His horribly mangled body was found underneath the wheels of the first car behind the engine tender. An emergency call was at once put in for a physician and an ambulance. The ambulance from Hulse and Playfair, Ltd., sped to the scene and the unfortunate man was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead on arrival there.

An inquest was opened this morning at the Civic Hospital by Dr. Harry Dover, coroner, and adjourned until Wednesday at 8.15 p.m. at the police station. Speaking to The Citizen, R.A. McQuade, assistant superintendent, C.N.R., Ottawa division, said that the fireman was running the engine at the time in order to permit the engineer to eat. He said that the accident occurred directly under the Laurier avenue bridge while the train and six cars were being backed out southwards. An investigation will be conducted by the railway officials he said.

Owing to the fact that no one saw the accident, as far as he knew, Mr. McQuade was unable to make any statement as to how Dean fell under the train.

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<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=pfEuAAAIBAJ&sjid=1tsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6982,753655&dq=railway+railroad+train+cpr&hl=en>

30/08/1938 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Ottawa Union*

Rod-Rider Asleep on Engine Tender

Union station attendants have been extending service even to "dead-head" passengers on the railroad trains.

When the Toronto train arrived in Ottawa on Tuesday, Donat Bertrand, C.N.R. gate attendant, noticed a rod rider fast asleep on the tender of the engine. "Wake up! First call for breakfast," he shouted.

The member of the ancient order of the Amalgamated Sons of Rest sleepily rubbed his eyes stared at Bertrand for a moment and then climbed off the tender. brushing himself off, he started for Up Town Ottawa - probably in search of that breakfast Mr. Bertrand mentioned.

Scarcely a train pulls into Union station without a rod-rider these days. Station officials say it is useless to arrest them for the jails would be full.

06/01/1939 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria*

Hoist three slabs into position over Nicholas subway.

Largest lifting job ever recorded here requires use of two wrecking trains.

When concrete slabs were hoisted into place over the Nicholas street subway early this afternoon, it was the largest single lifting job ever recorded.

Eight reinforced concrete slabs are to be set in place. Three were placed this afternoon, three more will be placed tomorrow and the remaining two probably on Monday. Each slab weighs 127 tons, is 79 feet long and five feet wide.

The hoisting job is being done by two wrecking trains of the Canadian National Railways brought to Ottawa especially for this purpose. One train can lift 200 tons and the other 160 tons. When it is realized that the heaviest railway cars are about 50 or 60 tons, some idea of the magnitude of lifting the slabs can be obtained.

Of all Canadian material, the slabs were made at the C.N.R. roundhouse in Ottawa. Ross-Meagher Limited, Ottawa, contractors, had the contract for both the concrete slabs and the bridge construction work. Under its contracts the company was obliged to use local labor, labor relief if possible.

The entire work, costing in the neighborhood of \$110,000, is under the relief labor project for which a special fund was made available for the Board of Transport Commissioners.

Three tracks cross the bridge, two of the C.N.R. and one of the C.P.R. The slabs placed today were under the most western track. Slabs will be placed under the middle track tomorrow, the C.P.R. track to the east being last.

Conceived with Askwith

Work is being done by the C.N.R. and is in charge of Alex Hamilton of Toronto, foreman in charge of erection. Two officials of the construction division of Toronto came to Ottawa especially for the laying of the slabs, namely C.P. Disney, engineer of construction and R.A. Baldwin, bridge engineer.

The project was conceived by the corporation of Ottawa, under the supervision of F.C. Askwith, commissioner of works. When completed, the new subway will have a roadway clearance for traffic of 66 feet. Grading and other work for the streets approaching the subway were done by the city.

The C.N.R. is the only company in the world building bridges of this type but it is said to be the bridge of the future. It is composed of concrete abutments with the reinforced concrete slabs on top.

04/05/1939 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Ottawa Union*

Close station on May 20 between 3.30 and 6, E.S.T.

For the departure of Their Majesties on May 20, the Union Station will be closed between 3.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Superintendent J.A. Rogers of the C.N.R. announced this morning.

The last train to arrive at 2.55 p.m. will be the C.N.R. train from Montreal. The last to leave will be the C.P.R. for Pembroke at 3.30 p.m.

Between 3.30 and 6 o'clock only officials of the railways and the official party accompanying Their Majesties will be permitted into the station and environs and the R.C.M.P. will maintain a guard.

Final arrangements for diverting(?) trains between 3.30 and 6 o'clock will be advertised by the railways.

11/02/1940 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Alexandria*

Uncoupled caboose struck truck after train had passed

Alexandria Nov. 1.

To be hit by a train because of a disregard for the danger signals is not uncommon fate, but to be hit by the caboose of a freight train after waiting until the train has passed and the wig-wag safety signal had stopped and the crossing was clear, is, from the point of view of two men who underwent this experience here this evening, an injustice.

At 8.15 tonight a truck owned by Shepherd Brothers of Alexandria and occupied by Paul Dorey, driver, and Eli David, merchant, was entering the town on Highway 34. The wig-wag signal at the railway crossing was operating; the truck stopped. A long freight passed and the signal ceased. Just as the front part of the truck was crossing the track it was struck by the caboose of the train which had become uncoupled and was travelling about 800 feet behind the rest of the train.

Neither man was hurt. When the railway crew, after stopping a short distance east of the town, backed up the train to retrieve the "wandering van" they found the caboose undamaged. The truck, however, was damaged considerably.

Familiar to Ottawa citizens for many years, the newsstand in the concourse of the Union station disappeared on Tuesday when Canadian National Railway officials, in an effort to speed the entrance and exit of passengers, tore it down and began construction of a door in the wall against which it stood. In recent months railtraffic has been so heavy that station attendants have had difficulty, in avoiding traffic jams between those entering from the trains and those outbound. The new doorway will afford an exit to the platform along the west side of the concourse and will simplify matters for ticket examiners. The newsstand was established about 20 years ago, though it did not operate for some time during the depression years. After the outbreak of war, when rail business increased again, it was put into service again by the Canadian Railway News Service.

10/12/1942 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Ottawa Union*

New gate at Station Will Relieve Crush

At Union station owing to increased traffic and congestion at the gateways to and from the tracks, it has been found necessary to provide an additional gateway on the west side of the concourse leading to tracks 1 and 2. Officials say that of late it has been almost impossible to regulate traffic through the present gateways, especially from evening trains. Construction of the new gateway is proceeding.

23/12/1942 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Ottawa Union*

Install Loud Speakers at Union Station to Aid Passengers

The mechanical age made a new inroad into the life of the Capital this morning when the holiday bound travellers thronged Union Station to catch the early trains. The stentorian voice of the train caller, a feature of the station since trains were invented, was gone. Instead of the long drawn station-to-station chant of one of the employes, with his "all abo-o-o-o-ard", the throng heard their stations being blared forth from loudspeakers. The three speakers are being given a test in the Christmas rush to see whether they are more efficient than the voice of a single man who must strain his lungs to be heard above the clamour of the crowd. If they prove their worth, it is expected they will be a permanent installation.

31/12/1943 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

Engineer T.C. Reasbeck, 54, of 128, Hawthorne avenue, was killed late last night when a steam pipe burst on the locomotive of an eastbound freight train en route from Ottawa to Montreal at a point between Greenfield and Alexandria, about 50 miles east of Ottawa.

Injured seriously in the mishap were Fireman M.S. Cybulski, 30, of Barrys Bay and Brakeman A. Valliere, 30, of Limoges, who were taken to the Ottawa Civic Hospital on arrival of the Trans-Continental train from Halifax to Vancouver.

The explosion did not cause derailment of the freight train, but delayed the Trans-Continental about two hours and 20 minutes on reaching the Capital.

Injuries to Fireman Cybulski and Brakeman Valliere consisted of burns and severe scalds, and early this morning the hospital reported their condition quite serious.

Cause of the explosion is under investigation, according to a statement issued by Superintendent Paul Fox of the Ottawa C.N.R. division.

It was learned that Engineer Reasbeck died of a fractured skull suffered when he was hurled out of the engine cab following the explosion. Fireman Cybulski jumped and Brakeman Valliere remained in the cab and was the least injured. The brakeman suffered scalds to the hands, face and ankles while the fireman was also badly scalded on the face, hands and ankles and, in addition, suffered a deep scalp wound.

The freight train had travelled its entire length past the point where Engineer Reasbeck was found lying beside the track. It took a searching party some time to find the unconscious man.

Dr. D.J. Dolan of Alexandria, where the injured were taken first, treated them until they were put aboard the Trans-Continental for Ottawa. The injured were met by the ambulance of George H. Rogers Ltd., which took them to the Civic Hospital.

Superintendent Fox stated there had been no boiler explosion. If there had been the roadbed of the track would have been torn up.

On arrival of the injured men in Ottawa, Dr. R. Lorne Gardner, C.N.R. physician took charge. An inquest will be held, but Dr. Dolan said he would have to communicate with the Crown Attorney Harkness in Cornwall to learn who would officiate at it.

The Trans-Continental train which was delayed two hours and 20 minutes should have arrived at 10.45 p.m.

31/12/1943 *Cornwall Freeholder* *Alexandria*

STEAM KILLS RAIL ENGINEER AT ALEXANDRIA

(Ottawa) Two railroaders, A. Valliere, 30, of Limoges, Que., and M.S. Cybulski, 30, of Barry's Bay, Ont., were in hospital here today in "quite serious condition" following the burst of a steam pipe in a Canadian National Railways freight engine near Alexandria, Ont. which fatally injured T.C. Reasbeck, 54, of Ottawa, the engineer.

Cybulski, fireman, and Valliere, brakeman, suffered scalds to the hands, face and ankles when the pipe exploded and Cybulski also suffered a deep scalp wound. Live steam shot into the cab of the locomotive as the train was pulling 55 cars up a grade near Alexandria, about 55 miles east of Ottawa. Reasbeck was thrown through the cab window by the explosion.

Jumped From Cab

Cybulski is believed to have jumped from the engine cab. The train, which continued to roll forward after the explosion, finally was stopped about three quarters of a mile east of the point where Reasbeck was found.

Conductor Ross Conley of Ottawa and other crewmen put out flares to stop the fast C.N.R. Transcontinental No. 1 train from Montreal which was following the freight. The Transcontinental was halted at Alexandria however and later pushed the freight into Greenfield, Ont. and took the injured men aboard.

Two Alexandria doctors, E.J. Dolan and D. Primeau, boarded the Transcontinental train here and went to the scene where they were assisted in treating the injured by Miss Edna Hill of Apple Hill, Ont., a trained nurse.

06/01/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

The funeral of Thomas Cuddy Reasbeck, a well known Ottawa locomotive engineer, who died of injuries as a result of an accident on December 30, took place at 1.30 p.m. in Vankleek Hill. Services were held at St. John's Anglican Church, conducted by Rev. Mr. De Catanzaro. Mr. Reasbeck was a prominent member of Dalhousie Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and a Masonic service was held on Sunday evening at Vankleek Hill by St. John's Lodge, A.F. and A.M.

The high esteem in which Mr. Reasbeck was held was shown in the many floral tributes, including a cross from Dalhousie Lodge and a basket from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. The pallbearers were Messrs. M.T. Ashe, W.H. Taylor, E. Calcutt, W. Vogan, K. McDonald and D. McRae.

Mr. Reasbeck, 56 years of age, was the son of the late W. Reasbeck and Christina Lunan. He was born at Plantagenet, and entered the service of the former Grand Trunk Railway in May 1913.

The chief mourners were his widow, seven brothers, Daniel of Escanaba, Mich.; Charles of Hull; William of Timmins; James of Espanola; Kenneth of Noranda; Robert of Toronto; Edward of Hudson Heights, and one sister, Mrs. T.A. Standing of Ottawa.

10/01/1944 *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria* *Laurier Avenue bridge*

The Laurier avenue bridge, closed since the weekend of August 7, was reopened to traffic at 8 o'clock this morning. The eastern approach of the span has been reconstructed, the floor slabs have been replaced and the steel pillars encased in cement. Cost of the repairs, borne by the C.N.R was reported to be \$60,000.

22/12/1944 *Glengarry News* *Alexandria* *Casselman*

Reported rear end collision on South Nation River Bridge at Casselman.

22/12/1944 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

*Casselman*

No one hurt in C.N.R. collision near Casselman.

The caboose and two cars of a C.N.R. freight train were destroyed by fire about 2.18 p.m. yesterday after a second freight train had crashed into them. The accident occurred on a bridge located about a quarter of a mile west of Casselman, Ont. No one was injured in the collision. Casselman is located about 31 miles southwest of Ottawa. Traffic on the main C.N.R. line was disrupted due to the accident.

According to witnesses, the one freight train had stopped near the bridge. The second freight plowed into the rear three cars of it, badly wrecking them and setting them on fire. the engine of the second freight was said to be slightly damaged. Both trains were east bound.

None derailed.

None of the cars on either train was derailed. C.N.R. officials last night could give no immediate cause for the accident. They stated an immediate investigation would be made. Late last night men were still working to clear the main line. It was stated normal traffic would be resumed about midnight.

18/10/1945 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

*Ottawa Union*

--the railway threw open their yards to the Legion reception committee for the serving of refreshments and hot coffee to repatriated liberated British prisoners-of-war homeward bound from Japanese prison camps.

As a result more than 800 prisoners-of-war were greeted by the mayor Stanley Lewis and the Legion and Legionettes. The welcome was well received as two 15-car trains arrived at Union station yards, one at 12.25 and the at 1.15 at noon.

Troops cheer Mayor.

At the arrival of the first train the Mayor speaking from a railway cabooses greeted the repatriates in the name of the city and Legion--

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12/04/1946 *Ottawa Journal*

*Alexandria*

*Vars*

Vars. Governor's Train Breaks Down

Speedy work by a railway repair crew was responsible for the arrival of the Governor General in Ottawa on schedule this morning, in spite of a series of minor breakdowns.

"I think an all-time record for repairing a broken draw-bar was set", commented one man who travelled on the Vice-Regal train.

The train was held up first by a breakdown of a Montreal-bound train at Vars, about 18 miles east of Ottawa. To save time, the engine from the Governor General's train was put to work, putting the other train in on a siding. Then it proceeded to bring the Vice-Regal party to Ottawa.

Bad luck was still with the train, however. A draw-bar coupling broke. While all-Ottawa waited, and with the welcoming ceremonies scheduled to start shortly, a master mechanic and his crew made repairs in nine minutes flat.

The engineer then brought the train into Ottawa. "And, believe me, we were going pretty fast", said the passenger.

Earlier, hatless and wearing tweeds, Viscount Alexander took a brisk morning walk in the bright sunshine at Vars station and chatted with a group of villagers.

22/08/1946 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

*Ottawa Union*

War Bride Travels on Train Driven by Father-in-Law.

Edward K. Schlieske, of 574 Chapel street, has hauled a lot of passengers behind his big Canadian National Railways engine during his years with that company but Tuesday night when he rolled his passenger train into Union Station he little realized what a precious cargo he had aboard one of the sleek cars strung out behind his engine.

Me. Schlieske took off his gloves, stepped out of the cab and strode into the concourse. Just inside the gates a group of relatives and friends were greeting war brides and children who had arrived on the CNR train the engineer had brought in. Station Master Oswald P. George stepped up to him and remarked

"You brought in your daughter-in-law on this run, eh?"

"No," replied Mr. Schlieske, "she came in on Number 1."

"Oh no she didn't, she came in on your train," said another voice at his elbow. "meet my wife. Dad!" chuckled his son.

"Well, I'll be darned!" laughed the engineer.

02/05/1947 *Ottawa Journal*

*Alexandria*

*Vars*

Parmalee bank swindler.

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Parmalee's dream of retiring to a "little home" in the Maritimes to a life of secluded ease with the \$17,400 was nipped by Ottawa police who arrested him while he waited in the railway station at Vars, 35 miles south east of here, while waiting for the Montreal-bound train yesterday afternoon. Police were led ther by Lionel Trotter, an Ottawa taxi driver who recalled taking the "Parson" there.

21/06/1947 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

*Alexandria*

Train kills district man.

Drives into the Path of Congress Special

Alexandria June 21. Charles Massia, Alexandria district farmer was instantly killed about 11 o'clock here this morning when the car in which he was driving was struck by an Ottawa-bound special CN train.

The train, carrying pilgrims to the Marian Congress, dragged the automobile for three-quarters of a mile before coming to a halt. There were no other occupants in the car.

The fatality occurred at the Alexandria crossing which is protected by a warning bell and wig-wag system. The warning apparatus was in operation this morning.

27/01/1948 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

The CNR last night issued a statement concerning the event which delayed the Montreal -Ottawa train last Monday night, first reported in Wednesday's Evening Citizen. The official explanation differs slightly from the newspaper.

According to the railway, a 4 1/2 hour delay was caused when a broken equalizer n the rear truck on the third car from the engine derailed that truck as is passed over a switch. The truck and the two on the fourth car then went into a side track. The train at that time was travelling at only 30 mph.

The engineer brought the train to a halt almost immediately. Slight damage was caused to the roadbed by the dragging truck, but no cars overturned, no ties were torn up and no one was injured.

30/06/1949 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

*Casselman*

Rule Death Accidental.

Casselman. A verdict of accidental death was returned last night by a coroner's jury into a level crossing accident which claimed the lives of Onesime Patenaude, 76, and Edmond Tessier, 41, both of Lemieux, Ont., on June 21.

Mr.patenaude was killed instantly when the light panel truck in which he was riding was struck by a passenger train on a crossing about 200 feet from the Casselman station. Mr. Tessier died en route to an Ottawa hospital.

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**03/08/1949**    *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*                      *Hurdman*

Three young men and a girl narrowly escaped death shortly after midnight, when the three ton truck in which they were riding struck to side of a Montreal-bound freight train on the River road at Hurdman's Bridge and was hurled twenty-five feet into a gully.

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Pieces of the truck were strewn along the track for more than 100 yards. The train continued on its way, the engineer being evidently unaware that the train had been struck.

**31/08/1950**    *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*                      *Ottawa Union*

Only two on board  
First passenger train arrives  
Employees of both railroads are all on the job on time this morning  
At the Chateau Laurier, however, it will take a day before new guests can be accommodated and the cafeteria won't be open until Friday. By Saturday management expects everything will be back to normal, with grill and main dining rooms open and full services available for guests.  
On the first passenger train to arrive in Ottawa after the strike was CPR 563 from Prescott, which carried two passengers from Smiths Falls.

**02/06/1953**    *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*

Description of a ride in the cab between Ottawa and Montreal on 6227.  
<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=TwMxAAAIBAJ&sjid=q98FAAAAIBAJ&pg=5662,258751&dq=post+train+engine&hl=en>

**04/02/1955**    *Ottawa Journal*                      *Alexandria*                      *Ottawa Union*

Station Master O.P. George retiring after long service  
One of Ottawa's best known residents is stepping out of service with the Canadian National Railways this evening after an all-around railway career. He is Oswald Patrick George, station master at the Union Station.  
Literally millions of people have arrived at and left Union Station in the 21 years that Mr. George has been station master. He has greeted all the Very Important People who have travelled to Ottawa including Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Anthony Eden, President Truman and President Roosevelt.  
Born in Eganville 65 years ago, Oswald George has been head brakeman, passenger trainman, fireman and roadmaster. He has put in nearly 50 years with the CNR and its predecessor, the old Grand Trunk Railway.  
As a brakeman with the old GTR he went as far east as St. Albans, Vermont, as far south as Rouses Point and as far north and west as Depot Harbor. He worked his way up the ladder to become yardmaster at Coteau when the depression came along in the thirties. He worked as conductor on a freight and at times as a trainman. When the depression ended he was named station master at Ottawa.  
Married to the former Miss Pearl Stewart, a member of a well known North Bay family, Mr. George is proud of his eight children, Lois, who is Mrs. Grimes Raby of Ottawa; Stewart, working in Toronto; Jack, employed in Hamilton; Shirley (Mrs. Bud Kane), Temiskaming; Dr. Alexander George, a McGill Graduate practising in Toronto; Arthur, in Ottawa with the express company; Muriel (Mrs. Gerald Rooney) of Renfrew, and James as an accountant in Kingston.

**18/07/1955**    *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*                      *Maxville*

A big derailment at Maxville July 18th, 1955, a couple of pictures of that from the Citizen including 4-8-4 6304 passing the derailment.

**19/07/1955**    *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*                      *Maxville*

Engine and boxcars tossed like toys. (with aerial photo)  
This was the scene from above near Maxville after a CNR freight train smashed through an open switch. Twenty-nine of the 32 cars were derailed and tossed like toys atop each other in a scene of awesome damage. Miraculously, no members of the crew were injured in the spectacular wreck. The 250-ton locomotive rammed through 125 feet of earth smashing through a coal shed before it came to a shuddering stop at a grotesque angle, half-buried, as shown here. Adding to the damage were casualties among livestock in cars on a nearby spur line. The hurtling freight smashed them to bits.

**17/11/1956**    *Ottawa Citizen*                      *Alexandria*

With a picture showing children in front of a passenger car.  
Caption. He's in Town. More than 1,000 children poured off a special CNR train at a "mystery rendezvous" this morning to greet Santa Claus. Old St. Nick stepped out of his "North Pole" helicopter to be surrounded by the crowd of side-eyed youngsters. After a big hello to everyone, Santa rode back to Ottawa with the children.

An 18-coach CNR special train pulled out of Union Station at 8.30 this morning with over 1,000 children and adults on their way to a secret rendezvous with Santa Claus who arrived from the "North Pole" by helicopter.  
The train was the "Freiman Special," sponsored by A. J. Freiman Ltd., to signal the official opening of Toyland in their Downtown and Westgate stores. It represents the first time in Ottawa's history that special train has been chartered to transport children to a "mystery station" to meet Santa Claus and usher him back to Ottawa and represents weeks of intensive planning by Freiman's store and CNR officials.  
Each coach was supervised by a railway employee to avoid possibility of injury to the passengers.  
When the train arrived back at Union Station at 10.40 this morning one of the first to greet Santa was Mayor Charlotte Whitton who had prepared a special welcoming address for the guest of honor. Children not among the 1,000 or so fortunate enough to obtain tickets for the "Santa Special" trip were not denied a chance to see the bearded gentleman. Once he arrived at the station he was paraded up Little Sussex Street to Rideau then east on Rideau to the Rideau-Mosgrove entrance to the Freiman store  
Also participating in the parade was the Governor-General's Foot Guards band, majorettes and comic book personalities.  
Aboard the train the children were treated to cookies and other toothsome goodies ?? "Santa's Helpers" from Morrison-Lamothe bakery.

Train of Today Drops In for a Wash and Look-see by Railway officials

With picture - includes a Budd car

The Train of Tomorrow never really got here, but what looks like the Train of Today arrived at the Union Station Friday afternoon. It was an 85-foot steel and sky blue coach, low slung and light weight with either standard or streamlined train.

On hand to see the new Pioneer III were officials of the Canadian National Railways and the Board of Transport Commissioners. Those who made the test run on the silver and blue coach from Montreal included M.E. Doke, Toronto, CNR, general traffic manager, J. Van Hemert of Canadian Car Company, Montreal; and George H. Hoganson, MEIC, Chief of Transport Research, CNR.

Pulled by a normal radio (sic) diesel car, Pioneer III made a run to Ottawa for test purposes.

Visitors found that one walked down an incline into the body of the coach, discovered a brightly lit car, and noted a wide and deep baggage rack.

Lightweight.

From a railway standpoint, the coach weighs only 52,000 pounds as against a standard 130 to 160 thousand pounds. It is only 40 percent of the weight of a standard car. The standard height coupler permits its use on any train. The coach meets the standards of the American Association of Railroads, with which the Board of Transport Commissioners in Canada concurs.

Among those on hand to greet the new car were C.D. Shepherd, Chief Commissioner of the Board of Transport Commissioners; R.N. MacDonald, Director of Operations, B of TC; Ray MacDougall, executive representative of the CNR; and Walter Smith executive representative.

Asked why the car was in Ottawa, Mr. Smith said: "We are just looking: we are still shopping around."

The Pioneer III remained just long enough to get its windows washed, and then it returned to Montreal.

26/11/1957 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Vars*

Letter to the Editor.

Through the medium of your newspaper I would like to take this opportunity in thanking A.J. Freiman Limited in making thousands of young children so happy with the recent trip to Vars, to witness the arrival by helicopter of Santa Claus.

It was so thrilling, for the parents of these children, to note the expression and the excitement in the eyes of our little ones, when Santa went through the aisles of the train and shook hands with as many children as possible, that one could not forget to thank the responsible parties for a job so well done and very little publicized.

Victor Boileau.

17/04/1958 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Ottawa Terminal*

C.N. begins railways moving plan.

First phase of the far-reaching railway relocation program under the National Capital Plan has been completed. This phase, planned in 1947, launched in 1950, has been completed two years ahead of schedule.

At 10 a.m. Monday, Alan K. Hay, FDC general manager, will formally present to CNR officials the key for the new CNR local freight terminus on Russell Road at Alta Vista Drive.

Announcement of the above was made at a joint FDC-CNK press conference late yesterday afternoon.

Over the weekend, without interrupting its customer freight service, the CNR will move out of its 50-year-old local freight office and sheds on Besserer Street in the Union Station area. The CNR will be ready for freight business in its new location Monday morning.

The FDC has recommended to the CNR that the old Besserer Street freight facilities be demolished as soon as possible and 1.5 acres of land they now occupy be made available as metered parking space for Union Station patrons. Accommodation for parking 160 cars could be provided by such action immediately east of the Postal Terminal.

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delivery trucks from the traffic congested area around Union Station where the CNR has been loading and unloading 50 freight cars daily.

Cut Unloading Time

As well, the new terminus will provide much quicker handling of local freight. The time to spot cars on the team tracks at the old terminus for direct unloading to trucks will be reduced by several hours.

The Besserer Street terminus was built in 1909 by the old Canada Atlantic Railway, which was incorporated in the CNR in 1923. The old freight sheds were built in 1919, following destruction by fire of the original sheds in that year. By 1953, CNR through freight trains were by-passing the urban area to the south on a new rail belt. In 1955, the CNR transferred its freight marshalling operations from the old Bank Street yards to the new Walkley Road yards on the Capital's southern fringe.

The right-of-way of the old CNR crosstown tracks was then made available for a start last fall on the construction of the Queensway, a \$31,000,000 east-west limited access highway across Ottawa. This was the first conversion of railway right-of-way highway purposes under the Jacques Greber master plan for the National Capital.

11/08/1958 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Ottawa Union*

Railways reject scheme to move Union Station.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=7wsxAAAIBAJ&sjid=qd8FAAAAIBAJ&pg=6005,1904874&dq=railway+|+railroad+|+train+|+cnr+|+cpr+-+bride+-+to-train&hl=en>

14/11/1958 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Vars*

A CNR special train loaded with 2,000 excited children and their parents will travel to a country point to meet Santa Claus Saturday morning.

Freiman's Santa Claus Special will take them to the village of Vars, 17 miles east of Ottawa. There the eager passengers will give Santa Claus a rousing welcome as he floats down from the skies in his helicopter.

Santa will then board the special 18-car train and make the return trip to Union Station with the group. Mayor Nelms will be waiting with high-stepping drum majorettes, a military band and hundreds more children to welcome Father Christmas to the Capital.

First for some

For many Ottawa and district children it will be their first thrilling ride on a railway train - and its free, compliments of Freiman's. Balloons soft drinks and cookies will be distributed on the train, as the gift of other sponsors.

Stationmaster Harry Spence will begin loading the big special train at 8 a.m., Saturday.

The train will leave Union Station at 8.45 a.m. and will arrive back at 10.30 a.m.

After the official welcome by Mayor Nelms, Santa will board a float at the Besserer Street exit and the parade will drive off the Freiman's store. It will be led by the Governor-General's Foot Guards band and the Ottawa Rough Rider Drum Majorettes.



At Union Station

At the Union Station more than 1,500 youngsters, accompanied some 500 adults, boarded a special train which took them to Vars to welcome the jolly old saint. There he climbed aboard and journeyed back with them to Ottawa, where he was greeted at the station by Mayor Nelms before proceeding in triumph to Freiman's downtown store.

Free tickets for this excursion were handed out the previous Saturday by two retired CNR conductors; P. A. Potter and A. P. Lavergne, in Freiman's downtown and Westgate stores.

Anxious not to miss the big event, 11-year-old Bobby Beauchamp, of 105 Irving Avenue, was at the station at 6 a.m. nearly three hours before departure time. He was shortly joined by Monique Lariviere, 10, of 159 Henderson Avenue, and Helene Renaud, 12, of 166 Henderson Avenue.

Santa was already there when the train reached Vars, where a welcoming committee of more than 500 children cheered his arrival by car. These youngsters afterwards attended a community Christmas party, shepherded by Vars Councillors A. R. Kingston and S. M. Barklay,

On the return journey the jovial gentleman walked a third of mile through the 21 coaches, exchanging personal greetings with the starry-eyed passengers. Some stroked his whiskers incredulously, and just a few seemed a little apprehensive.

"Oh dear, there now!" he said in a hurt but sympathetic voice, as one tiny tot burst into tears.

Goodies Too!

Nearly 5,000 cookies and 2,500 soft drinks were served aboard the train by employes of Freiman's Tulip Room who were pressed into service as Santa's helpers. Before the excursion left Ottawa, brightly colored balloons adorned the inside of the train. Inevitably though, these soon found their way into warm little hands.

Pulling the long train was engine No. 6206 a big, ancient steam locomotive like those which have hauled the Santa Claus Special the past two years. With the grounding of Santa's helicopters, Saturday was a day of triumph for old-fashioned transportation.

At the Union Station Santa was welcomed by Mayor Nelms "on behalf of all the children of all ages" in the Capital,

"In you, Santa, is represented all the good will of this festive season," His Worship read from a scroll he presented to the bewhiskered celebrity.

"I am sure that you will not forget all children, not only of Ottawa, but also of Springhill."

Santa's reindeer met him outside the station, from where he was escorted to Freiman's by the band of the Governor General's Foot Guards and a corps of 20 Rough Rider "majorettes.

Cheering crowds lined the parade route up Little Sussex Street and along Rideau, and surged after him as he entered the store to take up his throne in Toy land.

Coaches stay up. Tragedy averted. CNR praised for fast work. (with pictures)

Officials suspect a chipped rail caused the spectacular derailment of a CNR passenger train which injured 10 persons Saturday at Vars. They think the track was damaged by an earlier train.

Four cars of a Montreal-Ottawa train - roaring into the Capital at 70 miles an hour-bucked the track at 11.17 a.m. a mile and a half east of the village. Vars is 17 miles southeast of Ottawa.

Officials believe the track, made brittle by near-zero temperatures, was damaged by an eastbound Ottawa-Montreal local train No. 48 around 8.10 a.m.

Deep Furrow

The derailed coaches plowed a deep, half-mile-long furrow beside the track - but all remained upright.

Damage may exceed \$50,000.

Authorities say a tragedy was averted because none of the cars tipped over when they plunged off the rails. None of the injuries was serious. All but three persons were released from hospital after treatment.

There were 107 passengers on the train. It was made up of two diesel engines, two baggage cars, three coaches and a parlor-dining car.

16-Hour Break

The accident cut the main Ottawa-Montreal CNR line for nearly 16 hours. It destroyed 310 feet of track and severely damaged another 2,700 feet.

The wheel assemblies of the derailed cars will have to be replaced, officials expect.

The three passenger coaches and the parlor-dining car left the rails and plowed along beside the track. The lead engine remained on the rails but the rear wheels of the second engine jumped off and straddled one track. The two mail cars - which had broken from the rest of the train —also straddled the tracks and the four units ripped and twisted hundreds of yards of rail and ties before coming to a halt.

Officials said if the derailment had occurred a few minutes later the train would have smashed into the Vars station itself and might easily have spread death and destruction in the village.

The weight of the four coaches and the soft earth helped prevent tragedy.

Frost apparently had not penetrated deep enough to hold up the heavy coaches. The result was that all four cars - swept along by their momentum - plowed a deep furrow extending some 800 yards while passengers inside were tossed about "like corks in the ocean."

Travellers said screams mingled with the roar of ripping track as baggage bounced crazily around the cars.

Running On Time

The train left Montreal at 9 a.m. It was due at Ottawa Union Station at 11.25. It was running on time when the derailment occurred.

Conductor Arsene Perron of Montreal was first to realize the train was being derailed.

"I was in the second coach at the head end making up my accounts when I noticed the car was rocking" he said. "I knew something was wrong so I braced myself for the shock.

"The tail-end of our coach snapped like a whip and then kept going straight ahead. I knew we had jumped the rails. I hung on for dear life.

"We bumped along, and I guess we were hitting about 70 miles an hour. The couplings had snapped themselves from the rest of the train and steam came hissing into the rear of our car. I shouted to the passengers to hold on and be calm.

"They were very brave people. When we finally came to a halt I immediately started to help those who were injured."

Four Ambulances

The alarm was first sent into the Rockland detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police.

Four ambulances, from Exclusive and the St. John Ambulance Association in Ottawa arrived on the scene. Dr. Pierre Jacques Beaudet, of Embrun was the first doctor to reach the wreck.

A way-freight at Coteau Junction was "broken" when word of the wreck was flashed to Ottawa. Its diesel engine and a caboose under Engineer Earl Cooper and Fireman Keith Colts of Ottawa went to the wreck scene to transport injured stretcher cases to waiting ambulances at a nearby crossing.

Many passengers not listed as injured nursed puffed lips, scraped chins, and abrasions to arms and legs.

Mile Walk

Two OTC buses were sent to the scene to bring stranded passengers to the Capital. They were forced to park at a farm off a sideroad about a mile from the wreck. Hundreds of cars converged on the scene as news of the wreck spread. Highways were blocked on all sides.

Track was destroyed from mile 116.4 to 117.1. It was operative again at 2.50 a.m. Sunday but extreme caution is being exercised by trains passing through the area. Speed is restricted to five miles an hour until permanent repairs can be made.

A 75-man CNR wreckage crew repaired the track. Two giant cranes with a total lifting capacity of 260 tons were used. One was borrowed from the Canadian Pacific Railway company, the other brought from Montreal.

Officials said the cost of fixing the track alone would be \$12,500.

In addition, it is feared low temperatures Saturday night may have caused extensive frost damage to the three passenger cars and the dining car, all left axle-deep in mud. Damage to the passenger cars may reach \$100,000.

The long, straight stretch of track looked like the unloading platform at Union Station.

Nearly 100 stranded passengers trudged through ankle-deep snow along the railway ties to reach the waiting buses.

They carried suitcases, brief cases, lunch kits, umbrellas and raincoats.

Many had minor lacerations to chins or foreheads, or puffed lips. But they all felt lucky their injuries had not been more serious.

Passengers praised the railway for the promptness with which aid and emergency transport to Ottawa had been provided.

Shoes Vanished

Arthur Oulton of Moncton took the wreck in his stride. He was busy taking moving pictures of survivors when reporters arrived at the OTC bus which had plowed through deep snow into a farmyard beside the tracks to pick up the passengers.

"One woman was knocked right out of her shoes and she hasn't found them since," he said.

Later, the same lady was taken to the rescue caboose rushed in from Coteau Junction. She had still not located the missing shoes.

Several married couples carried young children along the snow-swept track muffled in blankets.

Alex Saunders of Ottawa - now stationed with the RCAF near Montreal described the jolting shock of the derailment:

"Suddenly it seemed like the air brakes went on and "the whole train went sideways and off the track.

"I threw myself down in the aisle when the cars started to go wild. I guess this saved me from injury. There were several persons injured in the car in which I was riding - the third passenger car next to the diner. But in the car ahead some were more seriously hurt.

Tossed About

"Everyone was tossed around like peas in the pod. But we were lucky at that."

Mrs. Mace Coffey of 900 Kingsmere Avenue, Ottawa, was in the coach second from the end of the train.

"It seemed I was yanked sideways and tossed against the side of the car," she said. "People were screaming. Bodies were being tossed all over the aisle. I was tossed against the wall of the coach and hurt my side. It wasn't serious though. It could have been worse."

First Ride

For Lynn and Stewart Markham of Montreal, it was an unforgettable experience. Lynn, aged 11, and Stewart, 3, were travelling to Ottawa with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Markhajm. It was Stewart's first train ride.

"The children were scared," said Mr. Markham. "They shouted but they had enough sense to hold on to anything they could lay their hands on. We were in the second last coach. At first there was a sickening thud. Then we seemed to just keep travelling straight ahead."

Mrs. O. W. McNamara, of La-chine, was travelling with her six-year-old daughter, Nancy.

"I was reading a magazine at the time," Mrs. McNamara said. "When the car in which I was riding lurched sideways, we came down with a terrific thud and then

kept going straight ahead. I didn't know what was happening. My nose was bleeding from being tossed against the window. Nancy held on to me. We rocked sideways, bumped along and then it was all over."

*09/02/1959 Ottawa Journal Alexandria*

Conductor Guy Moon Completes Last Run.

More than 100 persons honored CNR conductor Guy Moon, 128 McLeod street Saturday night after he arrived from Montreal on the Super Continental to complete 43 years service.

Born in Vars, Ont., Mr Moon joined the Grand Trunk Railway in 1916 as a brakeman and during the years saw service at points from Montreal to Edmonton. Since 1937, when he was made a conductor, Mr. Moon has been a popular figure on Montreal-Toronto and Ottawa-Montreal trains.

After his final run Saturday, a reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert hebner, 172 Fifth avenue.

*02/07/1959 Ottawa Citizen Alexandria Ottawa Union*

In a driving rainstorm that sent water cascading through the leaky canopy of Union Station, the Queen and Prince Philip left by train for Hamilton last night, after a 26 hour visit in Ottawa

The rain which had held off all day for the public functions finally came down just after eight o'clock.

During her Ottawa visit ---omitted---

Governor-General Massey, Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker, all in formal dress, met the couple, who appeared tired but relaxed at the Besserer Street entrance to the station.

In the station some 500 spectators pressed tightly behind naval personnel from HMCS Gloucester.

After quiet goodbues the Queen and Prince Philip stepped inside their car and returned a few minutes later to wave their farewells.

CNR engineer Floyd Goodfellow took the 16-car royal train away with a whisper.

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Queen Elizabeth left Hamilton aboard the royal train for Brantford, Ont., at 12.36 p.m. after a 2 1/2 hour tour of the steel center.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=ktMxAAAAIABAJ&sjid=qOQFAAAAABAJ&pg=2316%2C6015>

*10/11/1959 Ottawa Citizen Alexandria Roundhouse*

Benched steam engines by Austin F. Cross.

Six dead dinosaurs are rusting away silently on the Canadian National tracks at the roundhouse off Hurdman's Road. They are a mixed group of passenger, freight and yard switching engines. Their total ages would aggregate almost 300 years, with individual engines being from 40 over 50 years old.

Locomotive Foreman Frank G. Walton describes them as being "under tallow", and most of them could be put back in service under an estimated 24 hours.

The history of these old locomotives is pretty much the history of railroading in the 20th century in Canada.

Yet these steel saurians had their glimpses of grandeur as recently as two years ago. Study the line and you will find, second from the south end, is CNR 5559.

Though it was built by the long defunct Grand Trunk Railway as far back as 1910, this high-wheeling, high-stepper was hustling the first section of the Super Continental down to Montreal, only two years back. That was when the diesel-driven Super was dragging its tail, back somewhere beyond Brent.

Back To Steam

Whenever Ray MacDougall, then the big shot in the CNR hereabouts before retirement, thought that the Super was going to be too late, he would order up a "first Number 2".

Thus you would have a steam-driven first section of the Super, made up right here at Ottawa.

"That 5559," said Foreman Walton, with love in his eyes and a break in his voice, "would take the Super down to Montreal in two hours flat."

While photographer Doug Gall looked on non-comprehendingly, Rail Fan Cross lent the foreman a kerchief to mop up a shy tear

In same sentimental vein, the foreman would also use 5562 or 5583, for the elegant Super.

These 5500's go back to the ancient 200 class of the Grand Trunk, now remembered perhaps only by such rail fans as Canon John Smith, rector of Our Lady of Fatima Church.

An Identification

Also in the string of six is 5251, with a proper door in her cab. This writer identified her as an old Canadian Government Railways type. Sure enough, she turned out to be old CGR 479.

Less sentimental is a railway buff inclined to be over yard switcher 8360, which was built for the Canadian National in 1929. To an engine fan, this was just yesterday.

But a reverend bow for 2609, now 52 years of age, and "out-shopped" in 1907. When the Grand Trunk first brought this big one into Ottawa about 1913 she looked to be the biggest thing on wheels.

Engine 2609 ran latterly on freight but, after a half century, she has to go.

Now the whole six are "under tallow". Some day soon, the engines will roll as part of their own slow-motion cortege, at an absurd 25 miles an hour, to Montreal and the graveyard.

Only hoping, Locomotive Foreman Walton is secretly scheming to keep the 5559 in standby shape out at the rickety roundhouse. Maybe, some day, No. 2 will be late, the Super will not be so "super" that day, and out will come the 72-inch drivers of this lean locomotive greyhound, rushing the first section of the Super to Montreal at a mile a minute all the way - and on time.

*16/11/1959 Ottawa Citizen Alexandria Vars*

Picture

Santa Claus took the train Saturday on the last leg of his trip to Ottaa, after landing at Vars in a helicopter. Some 2,000 shouting children went in a special train to vars to ride into town with the jovial gentleman. Used to all formsof travel old St. Nick helped one of the young ladies aboard as the train left for Union Station and a parade to A.J. Freiman's Ltd., where Santa "took orders" for Christmas in "Fantasyland."

105 years of steam engines ending for Ottawa.

Sunday last chance to see iron horse in action.

When high-wheeling Canadian National Railways No. 6153 blows for Alta Vista Road Sunday morning, it will sound the the rattle of railway steam engines in Ottawa, after 105 years.

Hauling seven coaches, this fast-stepping, rugged passenger engine is due at the Union Station at 11.15 a.m. (EDT). After it has taken coal and water here at Ottawa, the train will leave Union depot at 1.15 p.m. (EDT).

"This is the end of an era," sagely says Walter Smith, executive representative of the Canadian National Railways here in Ottawa, as he advises parents who want to see this historic event, to take their children down to the station this coming Sunday. It is specifically suggested by Mr. Smith that the most suitable time to see the last steam engine will be from 12.30 to 1.15 p.m. (EDT). For by that time the engine, all coaled and watered, will be turned around and headed back to Montreal.

CNR No. 6153 was "out-shopped" about 1929. It is a Northern type. That is she is a 4-8-4. In other words, her wheel arrangement is oo-0000-oo.

It is a far cry from the first picturesque but feeble steam engine which crawled in to Ottawa through the snow around Christmas, 1855. This diamond stacked job from Currier and Ives arrived at the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Station on Sussex Street.

The old St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway connected the newly re-named capital with the American border, its wobbly rails running down to Prescott. Those rails still exist as a freight line from Sussex yard to where they join the Montreal-Ottawa main line of the Canadian Pacific at Hurdman's Bridge.

Competition invaded Ottawa in real earnest during the 1880's when the Canada Atlantic Railway headed for Ottawa through Glengarry and Russell Counties. Ottawa, through the Grand Trunk Railway at Coteau Junction, now had fast, swift service to Montreal over the Canada Atlantic to Coteau. Ultimately, J. R. Booth who built the C.A.R., extended his line to the U.S. border.

The Canada Atlantic gave the longer CPR North Shore such a run for its money that at the turn of the century the CPR built its famous "Short Line" from Montreal to Ottawa via Vankleek Hill, thus reducing the mileage to 111.3 miles.

It was during these classic years that the Canada Atlantic and the Canadian Pacific raced each other on these often parallel steam speedways. High spirited engineers threw the timetables out the windows and made the normal two and a half hour run in as little as 1.50 hours!

In terms of continental runs Ottawa was a station on the Montreal-Vancouver run. The Canadian National added their competition in 1920. Both have run daily trains ever since.

The Grand Trunk made its belated arrival into Ottawa when it bought Booth's Canada Atlantic, which by this time had also gone clear through to Depot Harbor on Georgian Bay.

Hereabouts, such quaint rails as the Push, Pull and Jerk (Pontiac and Pacific Junction), as well as the Gatineau were acquired by the CPR.

The New York and Ottawa Railroad reached in from Tupper Lake, New York, and for many years offered four passenger trains a day between here and Cornwall and beyond. They tore up the rails just a few years ago, and the Queensway now covers its historic right-of-way.

Then in 1909 Ottawa's last railway invaded the capital. The Canadian Northern, that expensive and picturesque toy of the Mackenzie and Mann dynasty came in from Hawkesbury and Quebec in 1909. In November it made a characteristic if dramatic debut, when it arrived two hours late behind two locomotives. It arrived at its brand new station at Hurdman's Road. Later the Canadian Northern moved into the Union Depot from where its trains reached out toward Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

This last decade, the railways have been reversing themselves in a baleful and tragic strip tease, as they take off this train and abandon that track.

So tomorrow, September 4, when the big 6153 blows for Alta Vista Road, that, as far as railways in Ottawa are concerned, is the end of steam.

We had a good 105 years.

Don't fret, we'll keep a few.

A lot of people are happy that there is to be a museum for steam locomotives in Ottawa's new Union Station.

Heading the list is Mayor George Nelms who says he even talked to Canadian National Railways president Donald Gordon about getting several engines for the museum.

The decision to have the museum was made almost two years ago by the National Capital Commission and almost everyone appears in favor of the project.

Controller Paul Tardif said it is an excellent idea. "Steam trains always fill me with nostalgia. Diesels may be all right but they don't look like trains.

"I am definitely sympathetic," said Controller Ernie Jones. "It would be something for the future. The kids some years from now could see what a steam engine was like."

"A wonderful idea," echoed Gerry Geldert, head of the Tourist and Convention Bureau.

Controller Wilbert Hamilton also welcomed the proposal. He did not think it would cost much and it would be a great treat for the children. Davis, President of the Ottawa Board of Trade. He said he personally loved the Old Iron Horse, but added: "Speaking for the Board of Trade, I have no opinions."

And even more cautious was E. R. (Bud) Fisher, Sparks Street merchant, who asked: "They're pretty ugly, aren't they?"

But he conceded they might appeal to youngsters and even more so 25 years from now.

06/09/1960 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria*

A gushing farewell to steam

Hot cinders and tears

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=PtsxAAAIBAJ&sjid=juQFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5884,844653&dq=railway+|+railroad+|+train+|+cpr+|+bride+|+to-train+|+will-train&hl=en>

07/09/1960 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria*

Ride Steam Train Free

Three Ottawa boys found themselves pleasantly "kidnapped" last weekend on the last steam train to leave Ottawa. Roger, 15, Maurice, 14, and Arman, 11, all Guilbault brothers, sons of Gordon and Mrs. Davidson, mother and step-father, and living at 9 Hurdman Road, got on the steam special behind CNR 6153, for a quick trip to Walkley Road. But the train left late and did not stop in the suburbs as scheduled. The boys made the entire trip to Montreal.

After getting their first quick look at Montreal's skyline and downing a lumberjack sandwich, they were returned by car to Ottawa by Barry Adair, Ottawa member of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association.

11/11/1960 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Vars*

Santa arrives Saturday by Helicopter and Train.

Weather permitting Santa Claus will make at least three pre-Christmas visits to Ottawa this year to spread some commercial cheer.

Other appearances will be made before the big night but he won't be making any general parade through the city like he does in Montreal and Toronto.

The most elaborate conveyance lined up for Santa is a helicopter-train trip tomorrow, ending at Freiman's Downtown store. About 1,500 children will take the train out to Vars to meet Santa after his helicopter ride from the North Pole.

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14/10/1961 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Carlsbad Springs

11 cars derailed, one hurt.

Workmen cleared the main CNR line near Carlsbad Springs at 0830 this morning 12 hours after a spectacular car-train collision in which 11 freight cars were derailed and one man slightly injured.

The injured man was Armand Brisson, 19, of St. Michael Street, Cyrville, driver of a car which police said plowed into the last cars of a long freight. Eleven cars toppled off the track, tying up the main line for 12 hours. The accident occurred three miles from Carlsbad Springs at 7.10 p.m. yesterday. Brisson escaped with face, neck and arm abrasions. His car was demolished.

20/11/1961 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Vars

2,100 children ride long train with Santa Claus.

The longest passenger train ever to leave Ottawa in peacetime chugged out to a Vars rendezvous with Santa Claus on Saturday.

The train was jammed with 2,100 children of all ages, and they escorted Santa back to Ottawa and an official civic welcome by Mayor Whitton.

It was the annual Santa Claus parade sponsored by A.J. Freiman, Ltd. After the official welcome Santa was enthroned on top of a huge float, along with his eight reindeer, for the parade from the station to Freiman's Toyland.

His subjects crowded the streets, and the Governor General's Foot Guards Band played "Here Comes Santa Claus" a prancing group of Rough Rider Drum Majorettes and girls dresses as elves.

20-car train.

The 20-car train arrived at Vars at 9.25 a.m., where Santa, who had already arrived by helicopter, was waiting. A host of Vars children - again of all ages - watched him land.

He boarded the train, and then went right from one end to the other greeting the children, pinching cheeks, and patting heads. They reached out to touch him, eyes popping and then broke into wide smiles when their faith was confirmed. He was real.

At Union Station Mayor Whitton met Santa carrying a big scroll with her chain of office around her neck. She said she was glad to see Santa make it, and that she was "worried" about Santa and the "bad things" going on up North.

"With all those sirens going," she said, Santa must think the "world's horrible," but she promised "we would all be good little boys and girls."

Following the parade Santa established himself in Freiman's Toyland and heard all petitions and demands of the wee folk for Christmas.

01/08/1962 Ottawa Journal

Alexandria

Vars

Veteran Vars Station Agent Retires

Alexander MacKenzie, 65, CNR station agent at Vars since 1941, retired after 46 years as an agent Tuesday and said he really liked the job better in "the old days."

"No one worried much about the business end of an agent's job then," he recalled in Ottawa this week. "If our figures sometimes didn't balance, we didn't get upset. Today it seems as though there are more figures than work, and they've got to balance."

An agent on the Renfrew-Eganville line for more than 20 years, Mr. MacKenzie remembered 12-hour working days, six and sometimes seven-day working weeks.

When he moved to Vars there were four passenger trains daily. Now there is one on his shift.

Mr. MacKenzie was born in Battleford, Sask., and joined the CNR as assistant agent after a year in telegraphy school in Ottawa.

He and his wife will retire to Ottawa's Hawthorne Meadows in September. They have a daughter in Ottawa and a son in Haley.

09/11/1962 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Vars

Santa Claus arrives here tomorrow.

Santa Claus will arrive in the Ottawa district Saturday morning.

Sources say Santa is due to land in a helicopter at Vars, 10 miles southeast, where a 19-car train will bring him, a welcoming committee, and 2,000 children and adults to the city. The train will leave Union Station at 8.45 a.m. and return from Vars at 10.30.

An official welcome in Ottawa will be followed by a Santa Claus parade, led by the Governor-General's Footguards band and the Rough Rider drum majorettes.

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30/09/1963 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Ottawa Union

A focal point for the great and the humble.

Article about the future of Union station.

14/07/1964 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

City reopening St. Laurent.

St. Laurent Boulevard, between Parisien Street (immediately south of the Queensway) and Innes Road will be reopened to traffic at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The boulevard has been closed for two years to permit construction of railway overpasses near the OTC garage. The present detour will be abandoned.

02/04/1965 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Ottawa New

NCC issued station building permit.

The National Capital Commission has taken out a building permit for the new \$4,778,586 railway station at Hurdman's Bridge.

The NCC permit was by far the largest issued at city hall last week.

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03/04/1965 Ottawa Journal

Alexandria

Ottawa Union

Article - Let's Save Union Station.

02/08/1966 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Ottawa New

Smooth station switch. Limited parking - no bus

When the first train rolled into Ottawa Station Sunday morning there wasn't a hitch.

in fact, the Canadian Pacific Railway's Rideau, coming in from Montreal, was 10 minutes early.

And that's the way the station opened - everything in order, no confusion.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=ULwyAAAAIBAJ&sjid=xuwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5845,70516&dq=railway+l+railroad+l+train+l+cnr+l+cpr+-bride+-to-train+-will-train&hl=en>

Ottawa's new railway station

The new railway station is far superior to the old. It is clean, airy, and its internal arrangements are efficient. The architects who designed it have also achieved an acoustic miracle: train announcements can be clearly understood. The major flaw remains the lack of local transport service. No doubt this will be solved; but the sooner the better. Perhaps, in addition to other suggestions made the OTC could continue running a miniature bus service from the station to Alta Vista drive - a distance of only a few hundred yards - where passengers could transfer to the regular No. 61 route.

Removal of the station to the Hurdman's Bridge area was made necessary because completion of the Queensway would otherwise have been extremely expensive. That was the main reason why the former Diefenbaker government decided to have the new depot built. Completion of the Queensway is now going forward. When it is finished, a large proportion of people travelling to or from the station will find it more readily accessible, because of the Queensway, than the old depot was.

At the same time, the original concept of the National Capital Commission was to have a large shopping complex built around a plaza near the new station. If this development goes forward, the structure will become the centre of a lively new section of the city.

Finally, removal of the station opens up a potential 22 acres in the heart of the city for re-development. When the Union Station is finally removed - as it should be after centennial year - the federal government might proceed with the original plan to build the national auditorium on the site. It would complement the National Arts Centre, and could accommodate many conventions too small to use the new Civic Centre at Lansdowne Park.

There have been many complaints about the removal of the station since the plan was first announced. Old habits die hard. The close proximity of the Union Station to the city centre was an important convenience. But Ottawa is growing. Many large cities have railway stations a considerable distance from the hotel and theatre area. In Ottawa's case, the new station is a drive of only four or five minutes from the centre. This is not too great an inconvenience for transients wanting to go downtown. For those having their own cars and living in the residential areas, the new location is an improvement. Only the local transportation problem now remains to be solved.

08/08/1966

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Ottawa Union

removal of the railway express and freight sheds is slated to begin Aug. 15, with five miles of obsolete railway track to follow soon after.

29/06/1967

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Ottawa New

Second parking lot at station will open soon.

A new parking lot to hold 141 cars will be opened next to the Ottawa train station, railway officials announced today.

The lot to be built on the west side of the station is in addition to an existing 160-car lot now in use on the east side.

It is anticipated the new facilities will be available this weekend.

16/11/1967

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Vars

Santa here Saturday.

Santa Claus is coming to Ottawa Saturday, by helicopter and train.

He will touch down at Vars, where a welcoming committee of 2,000 children and adults will meet and accompany him to Ottawa on a special train.

The train will arrive at Union station at 10.45 a.m. A parade from Daly and Nicholas Streets at 11.35 a.m. will go along Daly to Nicholas, along Nicholas to Rideau and left on Rideau Street to Freiman's department store.

20/11/1967

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Vars

2,200 arrive with Santa.

More than 2,200 Ottawa children and their parents travelled to Vars Saturday in a special excursion train to greet Santa Claus as he flew in from the North Pole by helicopter.

Several seized the opportunity to present their Christmas lists to Pere Noel personally.

Con. Ernie Jones officially welcomed Santa to the city at Ottawa Station.

About 300 others had gathered at the station to greet him.

A parade through downtown followed as Santa was accompanied by the Governor General's Foot Guards, baton twirling majorettes from the Marjorie Bishop School, a group of dancers from Diane Farell's Ottawa Diplomats and students from Algonquin College dressed as clowns.

Besides Santa's traditional sleigh and the reindeer float, there were several floats from "Fairyland."

The Little Old Lady who lived in a shoe was joined by Cinderella and the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Puss in Boots and Little Red Riding Hood also greeted the children and parents lining the parade route down Nicholas Street and along Rideau Street to Freiman's downtown store.

08/11/1968

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Vars

Santa flies in Saturday

With snow in short supply down south, Santa Clause (sic) is exchanging his reindeer for a helicopter Saturday to visit Ottawa.

He will land at Vars from the North Pole to be greeted by 2,000 children and adults. Then he will board the 19-car CNR train to mingle with the children on the return trip: tickets for the Ottawa-Vars return ride were handed out at the Freiman's downtown store last Saturday.

At Ottawa Union Station, Ald. Harold Waddell will welcome Santa on behalf of the city at 10.45 a.m.

Santa will then be featured in a gay parade downtown to Freiman's store. Taking part will be the Governor General's Footguards' Band, baton twirling majorettes, clowns, fairyland personalities and many of the children's favorite animal friends.

The parade will start at 11.35 a.m. from the corner of Daly and Nicholas Streets travel down Nicholas to Rideau and along Rideau to Freiman's

23/11/1968

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

NCC cleaning up old bridge sites.

The abandoned truss bridge on the Rideau River just south of the Queensway is ugly and dangerous.

The three 150-foot long sections obviously were designed for efficiency, not beauty.

the big triangulated beams might be acceptable in a hidden spot in an industrial area, but certainly not beside a major access road to the capital and in an area which is being rapidly upgraded.

Besides that, old abandoned bridges of this type are an open invitation to exploring children.

Thus the decision of the NCC to demolish the old relic should be greeted with enthusiasm.

It has served its purpose - from the days when the old Montreal-Ottawa railway line crossed it until a few years ago when the railway tracks in the area were phased out.

Demolition was slated to start on Wednesday. And it should be interesting to watch because the bridge presents problems not faced in similar demolition jobs on the Rideau River.

Before, it was possible simply to knock the bridge into the river, then pull out the bits and pieces with a crane. But the water is too deep in this particular spot to try this - which means the demolition crews are going to have to either build a pontoon rig underneath or a bailey bridge beside it to get it down.

To the NCC this is simply part of a clean-up job on railway bridge sites. One other bridge on the Rideau River in the Mann Ave. area has already come down, as has the bridge on the Rideau Canal at the end of Dows Lake.

**09/12/1968** *Ottawa Citizen* *Alexandria*

National Capital Commission

Removal and disposal of concrete abutments and piers from two abandoned railway bridges over the Rideau River in the Hurdman Bridge area.

**31/10/1969** *Ottawa Citizen* *Alexandria* *Vars*

Freiman advertisement. Free railway transportation for 2,000 children and their parents.

Pick up your tickets tomorrow while they last.

**06/11/1969** *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

Santa Claus gets Welcome Saturday

If anyone finds it hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner, Santa's arrival Saturday for Freiman's traditional Christmas parade should dispel all doubt.

Santa will arrive at the train station at 10.45 a.m. and then set out at 11.35 in a parade to Freiman's

Beginning at Daly Avenue and Nicholas Street, the 10-minute parade route will take participants along Nicholas Street and then west on Rideau Street.

Clowns, bands, cartoon and comic characters and floats will accompany Santa on the downtown route.

**09/11/1970** *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

(Monday 9/11/1970) Children Greet Santa

Santa came to town Saturday (7/11) to find thousands of Ottawa Children are still believers.

Santa flew in from the North Pole by helicopter to Vars, where he was greeted by about 2,000 children and a sprinkling of adults.

The children went to Vars on a special 19-car Canadian National Railway train that left Ottawa early Saturday to pick up Santa and escort him back to Ottawa.

At Ottawa Union Santa was welcomed by Acting Mayor Claude Bennett, baton twirling Riderettes and the Governor General's Foot Guards band

Santa left the station to join the Santa Claus parade. Accompanying Santa in his sleigh was Miss Ottawa Rough Rider, Wendy Thomas.

More--

**21/11/1970** *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

Area CN Stations to Lose Agents.

Canadian National Railways has been given permission by the Canadian Transport Commission to remove agents from seven stations in Ontario and Quebec, it was announced Friday

The points affected are St. Anne de Bellevue and Pointe Claire in Quebec and the Ontario stations in Maxville, Casselman, Vars, Renfrew and Eganville.

The commission noted that each station, as long as it is serviced by passenger trains shall be "kept clean, heated and lighted."

**08/11/1971** *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

(Monday 8/11/1971) Santa arrives by train

Santa Claus

That's what it was all about Saturday when the jolly man in red ho-ho-hoed his way to Ottawa

Some 2,000 children and adults boarded the special Santa express and rode to Vars to meet his helicopter when it landed from the North Pole.

Santa then rode back on the train and received a royal welcome at the station

Controller Pierre Benoit welcomed Santa on behalf of the City of Ottawa. Music and dancing clowns added to the festivities.

Santa then took part in a parade through downtown Ottawa to Freiman's Toyland.

Santa will be in town until Dec 25.

**06/11/1972** *Ottawa Journal* *Alexandria*

(Monday 6/11/1972) It's that time again - Santa's in town.

He's rather on the lean side .. Not as roly poly as last year

At least that's the way adults saw it.

But the children didn't seem to care. For them it was his big red suit, his big white beard and his big belly laugh.

They were full of little whispers: "Ist Santa".

Everything is big for a little child, especially Santa.

About 2,000 of them rode the special Saturday train from Vars to Ottawa. With Santa. Great big Santa.

They weren't the least bit concerned that modern-day Santas don't seem to have reindeer any more. There wasn't so much as a hoofprint as St. Nick drove by automobile from the train station to meet the 15-float Santa Claus Parade - his escort to Freiman's Toyland.

More

15/06/1973 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

*Casselman*

Bus driver Dru Allen fastened his seat belt, closed the door of and headed for Casselman with his load of 44 nursery schoolers. They were off to meet a new experience: their first train ride. They would board the Montreal-Ottawa train at Casselman, for the ride back to Ottawa. "I know all about trains," announced a four-year-old. "They're very big and they have engines made of diesel. People can eat on trains or sleep on trains or do anything they want."

The field trip was arranged by Arlene Harrison, mother of one of the pre-schoolers and program director of Merivale Co-operative Nursery School. Before its too late Mrs. Harrison wanted the children to experience a train ride while it was still possible in Canada. "In a couple of years there may not be any passenger trains left," she figures.

About a dozen mothers went along as supervisors, bringing the ratio to something like four to one. "We really don't anticipate any discipline problems," said teacher Betty Yost. "The children have been on field trips before and they know they are expected to stay together."

"They behave a lot better for us than they do for their own mothers, most of the time," said one of the supervisors. "At this age they're terrific," added another. "It's when they get into school they think they know everything."

Clutching peanut butter sandwiches and cookies, the three-and-four-year-olds climbed aboard their bus at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning, arriving at Casselman at 11.15. Everybody trooped into a small local park for races, games and a picnic lunch.

"My mother gave me suckers for the trip," a small boy advised the little girl beside him. Her face fell. "but I'll give you one," he promised, and everything was fine again.

Tourists in Casselman

After the picnic the children had a look around Casselman (pop. 1,200), then headed for the station. The big moment was near. The Casselman station attendants lined up the passengers in rows on the benches, and put on a great show. "Just like in the old days," one of the women put it. Then the train rolled in and the children trooped on board their special coach, crowding towards the windows as it began to move off. When they found they could walk while the train was in motion they swaggered to the back of the coach to watch the tracks slip by.

"Trains go fast," was the pronouncement of traveller Joanne Helmer. "The best part was when they let us look out at the tracks."

Joanne's mother, Pat, was almost as impressed as her daughter. "I'd never been on a train before," she admitted. "I grew up in the country and never had the opportunity. The trip was just great."

The train pulled into Ottawa at 2 p.m. Some of the children were tired but most still had lots of energy for whatever further adventures the day might bring.

Satisfied customers

The adults were in good spirits too. "It was an excellent trip," said Mrs. Harrison. "The children behaved themselves and the CN men were just great. Things couldn't have gone better."

Back at Ottawa's Union Station a one-man welcoming party awaited the adventurers. Said bus driver Allen, "This is the biggest family I've ever met at a train station."

06/08/1974 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

*Ottawa*

With picture.

The first turbo train to serve Ottawa arrived in Alta Vista station "on the button" this morning. The turbo will run between Montreal and Ottawa each morning on a trial basis for the next few months. During initial tests the train will follow regular train schedules, taking two hours to make the 120-mile trip.

08/04/1975 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

Faster turbo to Montreal

Improved train service between Ottawa and Montreal, including a faster Turbo train, are expected to be announced by Canadian National Railways Thursday. CN officials are meeting in Montreal this week to finalize the CN summer schedule which goes into effect May 1. Reports indicate CN is considering adding a second, faster Turbo run between Montreal and Ottawa. CN introduced one Turbo round-trip a day last August but the train had to make the 115-mile run in the same time as regular trains to fit into existing schedules.

11/04/1975 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

Ottawa-Montreal run

Two Turbo trips at 90 m.p.h.

Train service between Ottawa and Montreal will be 21 minutes faster starting April 27.

Canadian National Railway officials Thursday confirmed earlier reports that a second, faster Turbo service will be added to the Ottawa-Montreal line, and announced that the existing Turbo service will also be speeded up.

The same Turbo trains will make both return trips, reaching speeds of 90 miles per hour on the 115-mile trip.

The first Turbo service on the line was instituted last summer, but has not been used at top speed because of scheduling problems.

The trip will take one hour and 49 minutes, and will include as top at Dorval.

There will be no increase in fares for the faster service.

CN officials also held out the promise of even faster service in the future. If the tracks are substantially upgraded the train may be able to reach speeds of 120 miles per hour.

25/09/1975 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

Turbo service cuts possible

Canadian National Railways may be forced to reduce train service between Ottawa and Montreal because of a fire Tuesday night that heavily damaged one of its three high-speed Turbo trains.

A CN spokesman said the Turbo currently used on the Ottawa Montreal run will replace the damaged train on the Montreal-Toronto service. A conventional train will be placed on the Montreal Ottawa run.

But he said serious equipment shortage will not permit that arrangement to continue indefinitely and may eventually require a reduction in train service between Ottawa and Montreal.

The railway will also be forced to withdraw the remaining two Turbos on the Montreal-Toronto run from time to time for servicing, he said.

The high-speed train, on lease from Pratt and Whitney of Canada Ltd., burst into flames at Riviere Baudette, 30 miles south west of Montreal. The fire broke out in the train's engine the top part of which serves as a first class club car.

25/09/1975 *Ottawa Citizen*

*Alexandria*

Turbo fire may force cut on Ottawa-Montreal run

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=KMkyAAAAIBAJ&sjid=n-0FAAAAIBAJ&pg=4579,4356268&dq=train+railway+railroad+cnr+cpr+bride+trained+train-to+trainer+will-train&hl=en>



Two pictures

Some April Fools trick, the conductor of this CN diesel may have thought as he watched workmen loading the Vars station on to a truck April 1. Cumberland Township is moving the station, with the help of a \$13,000 LIP grant and the expert help of Drummond Bros. Ltd of Almonte. "They did an impressive job," Cumberland Recreation Director, Paul Lavigne, said. He also expressed thanks to Laurent Leblanc who donated 400 tons of crushed rock for the museum site and Albert Bergeron for allowing heavy machinery across his property during transportation of the station.

Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, 89 years ago, Jack Kyle of Vars watches foreman Dave Drummond help dismantle the old Vars station in preparation for its shipment to Cumberland. In Cumberland the station is to be refurbished and used as the township's museum

29/11/1984 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Ottawa New*

The City of Ottawa and CN Rail are considering an underground reservoir to control oil seeping into the Rideau River from the Ottawa Station. The proposed reservoir would be linked to a storm sewer on the east bank of the river near Hurdman Bridge. Oil would be pumped out of the reservoir regularly so it would not flow into the river. An above ground reservoir was proposed but the National Capital Commission, which owns the land, wants the more expensive underground reservoir.

13/11/1985 *Glengarry News**Alexandria**Glen Robertson*

Glen Robertson's 66-year-old train station is gone after demolition crews razed the structure Friday.

On Tuesday a CN spokesman said the building, which has been closed for the last few years, wasn't of any use to CN or VIA Rail and it had been offered for sale to the Township of Lochiel. The decision was then made to bring in the wrecker's ball.

"We did go to the township, asking them if they wanted the building, but we received no answer," Louise Filion, an employee in CN's public affairs department, said. "We went to tender for the job and didn't receive any bids. We then asked four companies if they would do it and we finally picked a company in Quebec."

Mrs Filion said CN wrote to the township on Sept. 10, 1982 advising them that it would be approaching the Canadian Transport Commission to close the station. The firm did not receive a reply from the township.

Lochiel Reeve Ron MacDonell confirmed that CN had offered the station to the municipality, but said it wasn't interested in it at the time.

"They offered to sell it to us," he said, "but we didn't know it was going to be torn down."

The caption under the two photographs reads:

Landmark Gone

A Glen Robertson landmark disappeared over the weekend as the train station was torn down. The station was built in 1919 after the original station, located across the tracks, was destroyed by fire. The station was in operation until about two years ago. The top photo shows the original station, built around 1880. It shows Station Agent Dave Robertson, left and Catherine Jane Robinson, right. The bottom photo was taken about 1950 and shows, left to right, Station Foreman Jim Rickerd, Edith Morrison, Station Agent Norman Milke and Grace Hanley, sister of Edith Morrison.

Photos courtesy of Ray Rickerd.

04/06/1986 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Ottawa New*

VIA shares in costs of oil reservoir.

VIA Rail and the City of Ottawa will contribute jointly to the construction of a \$135,000 underground oil reservoir to prevent oil and fuel spills at Ottawa Station from seeping into the Rideau River. The reservoir will be built on the east bank of the Rideau River south of Hurdman Bridge. VIA will be responsible for pumping out the reservoir: its share of the construction cost will be \$60,000.

15/01/1990 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Ottawa*

Requiem for a lost Canadian.

Heartbroken supporters say farewell.

With a mournful blast of its whistle. The Canadian pulled out of Ottawa for the last time Sunday as about 300 protesters bade farewell to a victim of the VIA cuts.

More

In another part:

Parting no sorrow for Jim and Lenny.

Aboard the Canadian Jim Barney and Lenny Austin turned a page of Canadian history Sunday, and in so doing, they closed their own careers.

The two men had the privilege of being the locomotive engineers who drove the Canadian out of Montreal Sunday for the first leg of the transcontinental journey.

More, including description of a ride in the cab.

26/11/1990 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria*

Budget grinch axes Santa Claus train.

Doctor Zeuss would not be impressed! Budget constraints have meant that VIA Rail Canada has had to axe its highly successful Santa Claus train between Ottawa and Montreal. The attraction had become a yuletide tradition in Ottawa over the past decade or so. The critics are blaming VIA but the fault really lies in the level of subsidy which the crown corporation currently receives from the federal government. Unfortunately, today's bottom line economics don't leave room for such luxuries as Santa trains. What a pity..

14/01/1991 *Ottawa Citizen?**Alexandria**Carlsbad Springs*

Derailed cuts service to and from Montreal (with picture)

VIA Rail service between Ottawa and Montreal remained cut this morning as workers cleared the mess of Sunday's CN freight train derailment near Gloucester. . Until the tracks are repaired, VIA trains to and from Montreal are being replaced with bus service, said Paul Garneau, VIA's manager of station services in Ottawa. About 300 VIA passengers took the bus Sunday.

CN district manager Andre Pronovost said this morning he expected the tracks to be cleared, repaired and back in service by 3 p.m.

Thirteen cars from a Montreal-to-Ottawa freight train jumped the tracks at Russell Road and Farmers Way near Carlsbad Springs at about 2:45 a.m. Sunday.

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No one was injured and no hazardous substances spilled in the Russell Road mishap. It will take several days to establish the cause of the derailment and a damage estimate, CN spokesman Richard Boileau said today.

The cause is still under investigation, Pronovost said a damaged car carrying rolls of steel may have broken the tracks.

Officials from Environment and Transport Canada were on the scene to ensure the derailment did not cause any dangerous leaks. Some cargo that concerned officials included battery fluids and naphtha, a flammable petroleum distillate commonly used as fondue fuel.

One box car that particularly concerned officials contained dangerous chemicals including naphtha, phosphoric acid and ethamine. It was opened shortly after 6 p.m. Sunday and was found to be safe, said Fred Scaffidi, a Transport Canada spokesman.

CN brought two cranes from Montreal to lift the strewn cars from the snowy banks onto the tracks.

Transport Canada official Noel Sabbagh said there was no evidence of leaking. Area residents had no reason to be alarmed he said.

24/02/1991

Alexandria

Vars

Woman confused by whistle  
Train kills pedestrian in Vars.

A mentally handicapped woman was hit and killed Sunday by a passenger train in Vars.

The victim has been identified as Carol Louise Greene, 51.

Greene had lived at Residence Gregoire in Vars, a home for the mentally handicapped for 3 1/2 years.

Lucien Goyette, residence manager, said Greene and another patient were walking along the tracks about noon Sunday and became confused when they heard the approaching train's whistle,

"She attempted to walk in front of the train," he said.

Goyette said he had warned Greene not to walk too close to the tracks which run about 70 metres from the residence.

24/02/1991

Alexandria

Vars

Vars. Train kills patient

A psychiatric patient died after being hit yesterday by a passenger train in Vars - about 20 km south east of Ottawa.

The OPP said Carol Louise Greene, 51 was killed when struck by a VIA train in the village.

An investigation is under way, said Rockland OPP Const. Richard Croney.

The manager of Residence Gregoire, a psychiatric group home where Greene stayed for the past three years, said he had warned her to stay off the railway tracks.

The residents will likely hold a memorial service for Greene, said Lucien Goyette.

14/05/1991 *Le Droit*

Alexandria

Ottawa

"PANORAMA" RETURNS TO OTTAWA; Once upon a time, it was Canadian National's alternative to the "Super Continental". Alas, the train died in the late 1960s in the post Expo 67 slump in passenger rail traffic.

Now, VIA Rail has resurrected the name in Ottawa with the christening of its new first class lounge on May 14.

Similarly-named facilities are located in Montreal and Toronto. The Ottawa lounge takes up the former Operator's office and crew "booking room" on the east side of the concourse.

01/11/1991 *Branchline*

Alexandria

Ottawa

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPLEMENTED AT OTTAWA STATION: VIA Rail Canada has embarked upon an ambitious energy efficiency campaign at Ottawa Station. The effort is part of a large campaign that finds the passenger rail corporation getting on board the environmental band wagon.

Specific work at the 25-year-old Ottawa Station include a low-energy lighting system in the concourse; high pressure sodium lighting in the parking lots and revisions to the station power plant that will reduce steam production, leading to annual savings of \$50,000,

From an environmental perspective, VIA has removed its fuel racks - located at the west end of the station. All fuelling now takes place from a tank truck and the removal of the racks and underground storage tanks will clean up an environmental hazard that has seen oil slicks periodically contaminating the nearby Rideau River.

In an effort to cut costs, the station boilers will be converted from bunker C to light fuel oil although one wonders why the company didn't opt for much cheaper natural gas as a source of primary energy.

Other "green" programs include paper recycling and enhanced employee awareness. (Vialogue, Volume 13, No. 4)

05/03/1992 *Canadian Press*

Alexandria

BROKEN AXLES CAUSE DERAILMENTS: On February 18, two LRC coaches on Ottawa-Montreal Train 34 derailed at speed at Glen Robertson, Ontario, when an axle broke. Fortunately there were no injuries.

A similar derailment occurred at St-Lambert, Quebec, on February 29 when an axle on one LRC coach on Quebec-Montreal Train 621 failed.

These derailments, plus a similar one at Ottawa in 1991, have resulted in VIA stepping up the frequency of axle testing of LRC rolling stock in line with recommendations made by the Transportation Safety Board. (Canadian Press, 05/03/92 via Branchline)

25/10/1993 *Montreal Gazette*

Alexandria

Casselman

Two O.P.P. officers killed at crossing.

On October 24, two Ontario Provincial Police officers were killed when their cruiser was struck by VIA's Ottawa-Montreal Train 34 at a protected crossing in Casselman, Ontario, 50 km. east of Ottawa. Witnesses stated that the crossing warning lights were working.

03/05/2005 *Ottawa Citizen*

Alexandria

Maxville

Maxville rail mishap forces evacuation.

Bang from train shunting 'just a little louder than usual' and led to an ethanol leak.

Keith Jack thought it had to be some wise guy banging on the door of his apartment just before 3 a.m. yesterday, telling him to throw his clothes on, evacuate his apartment and run over to the nearby Maxville Manor seniors' residence.

Mr. Jack was awakened by a loud bang in the nearby rail yard, but thought nothing of it, figuring the railway cars were merely shunting as they always do. An evacuation in Maxville? Come on.

"I thought the guy was joking and I said this better not be a joke," he yesterday. "It was just about 3. The bang was just a little louder than usual, just like when two freight cars come together. But I looked out when I heard it and didn't think it could be anything serious."

But it was no joke when a railway car carrying ethanol, a volatile flammable liquid, bumped another car and broke open, leaking gas into an area behind the seniors residence, which includes a stream. Emergency personnel ordered an evacuation of the area. That sent about 200 Maxville residents, including 120 residents of the Manor, to the Maxville and District Sports Complex.

Maxville Mayor Bill Franklin declared the area in a state of emergency about 5 a.m. Roadblocks were set up on the outskirts of town, closing regional roads 20 and 22, including a roadblock at St. Elmo to the north. Two schools in the village were also closed along with the bank and other Main Street businesses.

"The home is naturally pretty quiet at that time of the morning and staff on duty heard a large bang," said Craig Munro, executive director of the manor.

"It wasn't long after that we got the call that we were going to have to move everyone out.

"It was the first time we had ever had to pull everyone out of the facility and with an average age of 85 among the residents, it was quite an effort by staff.

--

A team composed of emergency services personnel, experts with the Ministry of the Environment and members of council met through the morning in two hours intervals for updates and to plan a course of action. A group of rail workers transferred the ethanol from the damaged tanker into another tanker. Approval for the residents to return to their homes came about 1 p.m.

Via Rail communications officer Seychelle Harding said the accident affected about 330 passengers in Montreal and Ottawa after 6:45 and 10 a.m. Trains between the two cities had to be cancelled. VIA offered the rail passengers bus transportation.

03/05/2005

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Maxville

Bang from train shunting 'just a little louder than usual' and led to an ethanol leak

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quiet at that time of the morning and staff on duty heard a large bang," said Craig Munro, executive director of the manor. "It wasn't long after that we got the call that we were going to have to move everyone out.

"It was the first time we had ever had to pull everyone out of the facility and with an average age of 85 among the residents, it was quite an effort by staff.

"We've got to keep them amused and fed and it is quite an undertaking. But everything was orderly and we evacuated without any problems. It would have been a lot more difficult if the time required to be out of the home had been lengthy."

The residents, many of whom suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and many others who must use wheelchairs, seemed unfazed as they waiting in the sports complex for family and relatives, who arrived through the day to make sure they were all right. Some took relatives to their own homes, while others waited things out.

The home began calling rela-

tives first thing in the morning, and many arrived fearing the worst, only to enjoy the relief of finding their loved one safe. Several praised the staff. "Everyone here is marvellous," said Anne-Marie Bazinet-Miller, who arrived to find her go-year-old mother, Theresa, in great cheer. "The staff was nothing short of extraordinary."

A team composed of emergency services personnel, experts with the Ministry of the Environment and members of council met through the morning in two hours intervals for updates and to plan a course of action. A group of rail workers transferred the ethanol from the damaged tanker into another tanker. Approval for the residents to return to their homes came about 1 p.m.

Via Rail communications officer Seychelle Harding said the accident affected about 330 passengers in Montreal and Ottawa after 6:45 and 10 a.m. Trains between the two cities had to be cancelled. Via offered the rail passengers bus transportation.

01/08/2006

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Ottawa New

Rail Station Celebrates 40 years

VIA Rail's Ottawa train station celebrated its 40th anniversary yesterday. The station was designed by B. Parkin & Associates and was commissioned by the National Capital Commission. It was built in 1966 and won the Governor General's Massey Medal for Architecture in 1967.

11/05/2007

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Ottawa New

OTTAWA STATION WINS AWARD FOR MODERN DESIGN:

Ottawa's 41-year-old railway station is being honoured with a prestigious architecture award that recognizes its enduring design quality. The Ontario Association of Architects bestows only one Landmark Award each year to recognize buildings 25 years or older that are notable examples of architecture in Ontario. Ottawa's train station is "a great example of the purity of good modern design, which is generally lacking in much of Canadian modern from that period and almost wholly lacking in Ottawa," says Ottawa architect and heritage consultant Mark Brandt. The exposed steel trusses of the Ottawa train station give the roofline a dramatic character. The award also draws attention to the need to preserve modern buildings that may be maligned or taken for granted. The traditional view of heritage architecture is of stone or brick buildings from the 19th century. But many heritage activists, architects and planners are lamenting the loss of good examples of 20th-century design.

In fact, the station's heritage quality may already have been compromised. Owned by VIA Rail, the Ottawa station was designated a heritage station under the federal Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act in 1997. However, the designation came too late to protect it from permanent damage. In 1990, VIA Rail, in an effort to "brighten up" the station, coated the beautifully finished concrete columns with a beige epoxy that looks like vinyl wallpaper. Removing it now would ruin the original concrete finish, says Silvio Baldassarra, vice-president of NORR, the successor firm to John B. Parkin Associates of Toronto, which designed the station. Making a non-reversible change runs counter to heritage principles. The rules are stricter today. Last year, NORR wanted to present VIA Rail with a set of black and white framed photographs of the station taken in 1966. Representatives of the firm envisioned the powerful images hung on the walls of the ramp. Mr. Baldassarra said officials with the federal Department of Public Works refused because they didn't want holes in the walls. However, he says the holes would be no bigger than the existing "honeycomb" surface of the wall. He plans to approach Public Works again.

Commissioned by the NCC and built in 1966, the station won a Massey Medal for architecture the following year. Gene Kinoshita and Ted Sievenpiper were the building's designers. "The building is still true to its original intent and design using very few materials and colours," says Mr. Baldassarra. "It echoes the grandeur of the great railway stations in Europe. It's a bit spiritual, almost like a cathedral." The strength of the design is witness to a time when there was less design-by-committee and consultation with "stakeholders." The large roof (45 metres wide, 99 metres long and hovering almost 10 metres above the concourse floor) is supported by eight massive tapering concrete columns. The exposed cantilevered steel trusses give the roofline a dramatic character. The interior features an open plan waiting area, a circular ticket office and a spiral ramp leading to the far platforms. "It really is an inspiring space," says Mr. Brandt, "It evokes the memory of 19th-century train sheds and the dynamism of train transport, but in a thoroughly modern way."

15/08/2007

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

A man was killed after being struck by a train in east rural Ottawa yesterday. Ottawa police said the man was struck by a Montreal-bound VIA train between Rockland and Devine roads just after 7 a.m. The collision forced the delay of passenger train traffic on the busy corridor. The train was held on the single-track corridor with 96 passengers aboard until the coroner was finished investigating. A second train that was supposed to arrive in Ottawa from Montreal at 8:38 a.m. was stopped. Buses were sent to pick up passengers.

18/08/2007

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Walkley

Thomas the Tank Engine visited the Ottawa Walkley rail yard yesterday, much to the delight of Cameron Beech, 3, and his seven-month-old sister, Catherine, who were among the excited children who had a chance to take a ride on the train. It's part of a 'Day out with Thomas' show running this weekend and again Aug. 24-26, which also includes storytelling, music and other activities. Tickets are available at ticketweb.ca. (with picture)

08/09/2007

Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Police probe rail signal tampering.

Ottawa police and VIA Rail investigators are looking for someone who tampered with rail traffic signalling lights and crossing barriers in the city's east end.

Twice within the past two weeks, items that cause the barriers and barriers to malfunction - the barriers stay down after a train passes - were put on the tracks at Boundary Road and Eighth Line Road. OPP recently investigated a similar incident at Casselman,

VIA RAIL TO IMPROVE OTTAWA TO MONTREAL RAIL LINE: VIA

Rail plans to invest more than \$25M on a multi-phase, multi-year program to modernize key parts of its rail infrastructure between Ottawa and Montreal. These improvements are part of VIA Rail's overall capital investment plan. In this first phase, upgrades to the Ottawa-Montreal line will include the addition of a 0.76-km long passing track approximately 16 kilometres east of Ottawa, near Carlsbad Springs, a project which will be carried out by PNR RailWorks. The siding will be constructed with remote-controlled power switches tied into the existing Centralized Traffic Control system and Rail Traffic Control dispatch system. The siding will also be equipped with a back track for the storage of maintenance equipment, when required. VIA will also be installing new continuously-welded rail and performing other associated track work over some 40 track-miles between Coteau, PQ, and Moose Creek, ON. This work, which is expected to be completed within the next few months, will be carried out by Total Track. Additionally, structural rehabilitation of the bridge over the South Nation River in Casselman, a project which has been awarded to SEMA Railway Structures, will also be completed. "These initiatives will improve comfort, speed, ride quality and reliability," said VIA Rail president and CEO Paul C6te. "They will also enhance overall safety, and increase scheduling flexibility and capacity for additional trains. Just as importantly", he noted, "a more efficient operation will also contribute to reductions in fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions."

22/08/2008 *Ottawa Citizen* *Alexandria*

Hawkesbury mayor makes pitch for operating steam train in Eastern Ontario

Charlebois seeks investors to buy grounded Wakefield train to boost area's economy.

The mayor of Hawkesbury wants investors to operate the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield steam train in Eastern Ontario to create a "motor of economic development" for the town.

Mayor Jeanne Charlebois met Andre Groulx, the train operator, earlier this week to discuss operating the train on the track that carries Ottawa Central Railway freight and VIA Rail passenger trains.

She has also consulted Ottawa Central Railway officials about the possibility, she said.

Mrs. Charlebois said the train could stop in L'Orignal, Hawkesbury, Van-kleek Hill and at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville.

The steam train has been parked since May, when a landslide near the track forced the business to close. Since then, the owners of the train have put the operation up for sale and say they have received half a dozen interesting offers. The asking price is \$2.5 million.

Mr. Groulx, who has run the train for his father-in-law, Jean Gauthier, for 14 years, said he will probably have to sell the train to a buyer from the U.S. or somewhere else in Canada. He added he has two serious offers from buyers who want to operate the train outside the Outaouais.

The three municipalities that own the tracks for the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield steam train have rejected an offer from a buyer interested in operating the train in the Outaouais, increasing the chances that the train will leave the region.

"We are trying to find business people or investors in the Ottawa-Gatineau region who would be interested in buying the train because there is a track here," Mrs. Charlebois said.

"It would be better if the train stayed in the region instead of going elsewhere in Canada or to the United States."

Mrs. Charlebois said the train could run on CN Rail and VIA Rail track to the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville and to Limoges 35 kilometres east of Ottawa, which will be the location of the \$50-million Valcartier Village Vacations water park. (CN owns some of the rail lines that carry VIA trains.)

"Can you imagine going from Hawkesbury to the Tulip Festival by steam train for the day and then returning home?" Mrs. Charlebois asked.

"The train could eventually travel between Montreal and Ottawa if VIA Rail agreed.

"This would be an extraordinary asset for our region in tourism and economic development, creating 100 jobs over six months of the year. It would be a natural link to all the attractions in our area. We could even have special trains for Halloween and Christmas."

22/08/2008 *Ottawa Citizen* *Alexandria*

Commuter rail to Alexandria a possibility by next year

Casselman mayor has high hopes for pilot project after area leaders meet with VIA president

A pilot project that would see VIA trains taking commuters between Alexandria and Ottawa could be in place by fall 2009, the mayor of Casselman said yesterday, but any integration into Ottawa's transit system will have to wait until big questions about downtown light rail are settled.

"In the past six months we've been getting regular phone calls. They want to know when the train's going to start," said Mayor Conrad Lamadeleine. "There's hope that next year we would be experiencing a pilot project."

Mr. Lamadeleine met VIA Rail president Paul Côté in Montreal yesterday, along with Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien and Smiths Falls Mayor Dennis Staples, to discuss regional commuter rail using VIA's property.

"VIA made it very clear that they wanted to work with us to look at the capacity of the current system to host some additional ridership," Mr. Staples said.

The idea of a regional rail service built mostly on existing tracks was sparked by a recommendation last summer by the mayor's task force on transportation. Discussions about the system were furthered at a regional mayors' meeting hosted by Mr. O'Brien in June.

The rail line from Alexandria in the east has scheduled improvements such as installing a passing track at Carlsbad Springs that should make a pilot project possible by 2009, Mr. Lamadeleine said. The village mayor estimated that as many as 1,000 people would use the service that would terminate at Ottawa's main VIA station.

A pilot project for the commuter rail to the south of Ottawa is further down the line. Mr. Staples said Smiths Falls will start work immediately to identify what the exact need would be for the service, though he's certain it will be welcome.

"We have a number of people in our community who would be happy to use a line from our city through to the Fallowfield station," he said.

Mr. O'Brien said he was pleased with the commitments Mr. Côté made at yesterday's meeting, which included integrating OC Transpo's planned SmartCard payment system into any future commuter rail.

"We agreed that that once (Ottawa's transit) system has been approved by council we would see what integration would be needed to ensure that the systems work together," he said.

The City of Ottawa has decided on a \$4-billion transit plan that includes a tunnel in the downtown core and expanding rail to the east, west and south. However, city council has not yet decided in what order the features of the plan will be built.

Bay Councillor Alex Cullen, who chairs the city's transit committee, said he expects discussion of the new rapid transit system to dominate this fall's public consultations on the city's transportation master plan, which were announced yesterday.

"I don't want to call (light rail) the elephant in the room, because everyone knows about it," he said, adding that issues such as cycling, walking and roads should all be addressed at the meetings.

Mr. Cullen said he expects city staff will unveil several possible schedules for building the transit system on Sept. 9, before the public consultations take place. He said he presumes most of those options will see the downtown tunnel built first, but after that there are many possibilities.

Gyllenhaal sci-fi thriller to film at train station

'Modern futuristic' feel draws producers

Actor Jake Gyllenhaal is coming to town in late March to film scenes for a big-budget science-fiction thriller at the Ottawa train station.

Gyllenhaal, from *Brokeback Mountain*, *The Day After Tomorrow* and the cult thriller *Donnie Darko*, is the star of *Source Code*, a thriller about a soldier who inexplicably awakens in the body of a commuter and is forced to solve a mystery about a harrowing train bombing.

Duncan Jones, son of music icon David Bowie, is the director of the movie, which is budgeted at about \$35 million, according to press reports. Oscar-winner Ben Kingsley is believed to be in the cast, although the producers would not confirm it.

The Ottawa train station will figure prominently in the movie and was largely chosen because the architecture of the building has a "modern, futuristic" look to it. A production crew totalling more than 150 people may come to the city for at least four days of shooting in late March.

The film's producers were impressed by the architecture of the station and how it fits the storyline of their movie.

Built in 1966 and designed by John B. Parkin & Associates, it won a Massey Medal for architecture in 1967 and was named by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada as one of the country's Top 500 buildings of the last millennium.

It's believed this is the first time a movie of this scale has been filmed at the Tremblay Road station.

VIA Rail spokesman Malcolm Andrews said the station will not close during filming.

"We just let them know what kind of hours they will be able to use it so it's not inconveniencing our customers or interfering with our normal train operations," he said.

The film will be shot mostly in Montreal, starting in early March. It is among a number of outside productions expected to revitalize the struggling film industry in Montreal. As well, it may help revive production in Ottawa, which also suffered in 2009.

Roch Brunette, head of the Ottawa-Gatineau Film and Television Development Corporation, said outside productions always help Ottawa's film industry and bring needed revenue to the city.

16/03/2009 *CTV ews**Alexandria*

Feds spend millions to upgrade rail line to Montreal

Updated: Mon Mar. 16 2009 17:47: ctvottawa.ca

The federal government is poised to announce a significant upgrade to the rail line between Ottawa and Montreal on Tuesday.

CTV Ottawa has learned at least \$10 million will be spent to help improve Via Rail travel time between cities.

The funds to upgrade the Ottawa-Montreal route were put aside in the 2008 budget.

Other upgrades that were promised this year are expected to speed up Via Rail train travel between Windsor and Quebec City.

17/03/2009 *CBC News**Alexandria*

Better, faster train service coming to Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal

Transport Minister John Baird said Tuesday that infrastructure improvements could cut Via Rail's Montreal-Toronto travel time back to four hours. (CBC)

The federal government has plans to boost passenger rail service to Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto, Transport Minister John Baird announced Tuesday.

Baird made the announcement that track improvements are coming down the line after riding into Ottawa's Via Rail station by train.

The government plans to add two more trains in both directions between Ottawa and Montreal, he said.

He also announced plans to get trains that are already running between Montreal and Toronto to move faster.

"Improved infrastructure means safer rail travel," Baird said. By eliminating delays and congestion, trains would be able to reach their destinations faster, he said.

That's a commitment, Baird said, that could cut the travel time between Toronto and Montreal to four hours, making the trip as fast as it was in 1973, when the Canadian Turbo Train was still in operation.

And the idea of bringing a high-speed train to the corridor between Windsor and Quebec City is still on the table. The idea's been studied many times over the past 30 years, and another study is underway.

"I think before we make a \$30-billion decision "I think a \$20- or \$30-billion decision" what we should do is get the facts in front of us," Baird said. "That's what Canadians expect."

Canadians should also consider what they'll lose if the government doesn't invest in faster train service, said Paul Langan of the group High-Speed Rail Canada.

"Moving forward with these baby steps," he said, "we're never going to have a modern passenger service."

18/03/2009 *Ottawa Sun**Alexandria*

Government of Canada and Via Rail complete upgrades

Major improvements to passenger rail service in the Ottawa area will make

VIA Rail Canada faster and more reliable for passengers. Canada's Transport

Minister John Baird, Donald Wright, Chairman of the Board at VIA Rail

Canada, and President and CEO Paul Côté, announced over \$13 million of

improvements are now complete. This investment supplements the \$516M

announced for VIA Rail in 2007 for capital requirements. This second phase

of the revitalization plan will help VIA Rail consolidate previous

investments and continue renewing its assets while securing VIA's plans for

continued growth. "I applaud the Government of Canada for its recognition of

the potential of passenger rail through additional investments in VIA's

network," said Wright. "It is in this spirit that we have planned for the

wisest possible use of these funds." Upgrades so far on VIA's network

include a \$12.5M investment in the Alexandria Subdivision, between Ottawa

and Montreal as well as similar improvements currently underway on the

Smiths Falls Subdivision between Toronto and Ottawa. In addition, major

renovations worth some \$500,000 were made to the Ottawa station, which will

allow VIA to serve customers more efficiently and will address operational

and safety needs.

(Canada NewsWire 090317, Ottawa Sun 090318)

Subject: The Train to the Games

The Transport Board (TEO) and the Highland Games announce the Train to the Maxville Games

Dateline Casselman and Maxville : June 10th 2009

The North Glengarry Prescott & Russell Transport Board (TEO) and the Glengarry Highland Games announce details of the train excursion to and from the Glengarry Highland Games at Maxville on Saturday August 1st 2009.

The cooperation among the Board, VIA Rail Canada, the Highland Games and the Scottish and Irish Store in Ottawa – is noteworthy. The excursion from Ottawa is offered with a goal of traffic reduction and for greener travel to the Games.

On Saturday August 1st, a VIA Rail Canada train will be used to carry 68 persons from Ottawa to the Highland Games in Maxville. The morning departure towards Maxville will leave Ottawa at 9:55 am, and the return trip will leave Maxville about 6:50 pm toward Ottawa, allowing the participants to take in most of the events.

The number of seats being limited, prospective passengers should buy their combined tickets (train with Games) early. The VIA deadline is the end of June so time is of the essence.

The train fare will be \$30 return from Ottawa for all ages (children under two free) and admission to the Games will cost \$20 (children under 12 free).

The organisers wish to thank VIA Rail Canada for making this exceptionally low fare available!

Tickets may be purchased at The Scottish and Irish Stores:

194 Robertson Rd. (Bell's Corners) tel. 613.829.2251

1713 St-Laurent Boulevard (nr. Innes Rd) tel. 613.739.3393

11/05/2011 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

A 36-year-old man was taken to hospital with a serious head injury Wednesday morning after his vehicle struck a VIA Rail passenger train near St. Laurent Boulevard and Tremblay Road in an apparent suicide attempt.

Rescue crews were called to the scene near Triole Street, just east of St. Laurent, at about 8:30 a.m.

VIA Rail spokeswoman Elizabeth Huart said 78 people were on board the passenger train when the crash occurred, and that no one was hurt. It had been heading to Ottawa from Montreal and was due to continue on to Toronto. All passengers were bused from the accident site to the Ottawa station, and VIA hired one coach bus for everyone making their way on to Toronto.

Huart said train operations were back to normal by 10:40 a.m. Train 32 from Ottawa to Montreal and Train 55 from Montreal to Ottawa were both delayed by about 30 minutes, she said.

In the Snelling Paper & Sanitation Ltd. parking lot off Triole, quite close to the tracks, police strung yellow tape across the Toyota Pathfinder SUV's access route, a small set of tire tracks worn into the earth past the curb.

One worker at Snelling said he saw a man sitting in the parked SUV, facing the tracks, when he arrived at about 5:30 a.m. People often congregate in the area near the St. Laurent overpass, he and other workers said.

"Basically I saw the (SUV) just parked in the corner," said Tony Diotte, 28. "I saw his arm out the window, I saw a cigarette, that's it."

Tony said he parked the company van quite close to the SUV at one point in the morning, but didn't speak to the driver.

I don't know why the three of us didn't go out and say something, Tony said of himself and two other staffers who saw him parked there. That's the worst part; we stood around here saying, 'We should go say something,' but we never did. And now that I found out what happened, I feel a little guilty. We could have prevented it.

Generally we kick them out, or when they see us coming in, they leave. This guy was determined, I guess.

The driver's-side door hit the train and the force of the impact pushed the SUV about 100 metres down the tracks.

Firefighters had to remove the driver's-side door to get to the victim, who was unconscious when paramedics first reached him. About 15 minutes after the ambulance reached The Ottawa Hospital's Civic campus trauma unit, the man regained consciousness. He was listed in serious condition.

Wednesday's crash is the second train-vehicle collision in as many days. On Tuesday, two men escaped with minor injuries when their pickup truck was struck by a railway maintenance car on Riddell Drive.

Time-travelling Senators don fedoras and plaid suits, for '50s-style trip to Montreal

In the winter of 1924, when the railway was the only way to travel for pro hockey players, the train carrying the Ottawa Senators to Montreal for a game against the Canadiens got stuck in a snow drift.

With no way to communicate with the outside world, a young King Clancy and forward Cy Denneny, both future Hall of Famers, made their way out into the blizzard to find food for the rest of the team. On their way back, Denneny fell into a well that had been covered by snow and had to be hauled out. The Senators finally arrived at their hotel the next morning, but many hours late for their game with the Habs the previous night.

Train travel has long been a part of the past for the National Hockey League, although the modern-day Senators, decked out in fedoras, custom plaid suits, silk ties and highly polished black shoes, did their best to evoke the romance of that era Tuesday by taking the train to Montreal for Wednesday night's game against the Canadiens.

"It's fun and something different," said Chris Phillips, who has become a fan of the team train travel. "We took the train a number of years ago and I loved it and definitely wanted to do it again. It's a great way to go."

From hockey's earliest days and well into the 1960s, teams would book coach cars for overnight trips, and their players would settle into their seats to play cards, horse around and, naturally, share a drink or two, while forming deep bonds of brotherhood.

In one famous incident in the 1950s, members of the Detroit Red Wings got into a fight with players from the Chicago Blackhawks, who were in the next train car, after a brawl-filled game that night in Detroit. In the rematch the next night in Chicago, the two teams went at it again, with several players, including Detroit's Ted Lindsay and Chicago's Eric Nesterenko, ejected from the game.

Travel could hardly be more different in today's NHL. The players are treated like celebrities, everything is taken care of for them, their equipment is moved and waiting for them once they arrive at the rink, flight and travel arrangements booked, and their meals and training room time methodically planned.

Just about the only thing the current NHL star needs to focus on is lacing up his skates and playing the game.

The end of train travel is a source of regret to many fans.

"The distances between cities are so great now I don't think they can travel by train anymore," said Len Lawson, a longtime hockey fan who can remember well the days when the Original Six travelled by rail. "Players are certainly pampered now, but they're our heroes."

The event also gave the players a chance to have a bit of fun fantasizing about what it would have been like to play in that era.

Phillips said he thinks the flair of smooth-skating defenceman Erik Karlsson would have brought a different dimension to the game.

"It would be pretty incredible to see what he would be able to accomplish. I don't know if he could handle the travel, but on the ice he'd be fit for it."

03/03/2014 *CFRA**Alexandria**Alexandria*

An extra locomotive on a VIA Rail train caught fire Sunday afternoon just east of Ottawa.

A rider on the train tells CFRA VIA staff evacuated the people in the back car, closest to the extra locomotive being pulled by the train to another destination, to others seats while the fire was put out by crews from Alexandria's fire department.

The train stalled at Canyon Concession Road near Alexandria around 4 p.m. It got rolling again at 6:30p.m. and VIA Rail did not need to send buses for the passengers though, a VIA Rail spokesperson told CFRA they were prepared to.

The stalled train was coming from Montreal, stopping in Ottawa then continuing to Toronto it's train number 57. VIA Rail says the stalled trip will delay number 59 from Toronto to Montreal by about 40 minutes Sunday evening.

There were no injuries and no word on what caused the fire on the locomotive - which was non-operational and just being pulled by the train to another destination.

<http://www.cfra.com/news/2014/03/02/via-rail-extra-locomotive-catches-fire-near-alexandria>

02/09/2014 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria**Carlsbad Springs*

A fatal collision Sunday evening on the tracks near Carlsbad Springs in east Ottawa delayed 119 passengers en route to Ottawa from Montreal by more than two hours. Train No. 59 struck a trespasser on the tracks near Russell Road at around 6 p.m., said Via Rail spokesman Malcolm Andrews. The tracks were closed while police investigated, but Andrews said the tracks were cleared at around 8:15 p.m.

26/09/2014 *Ottawa Citizen**Alexandria*

Ottawa-Montreal Via trains delayed

Pickup truck struck, one person hurt

There was no screeching, no significant disturbance on board, but it was clear we were stopping suddenly.

People travelling by rail between Ottawa and Montreal were being warned of delays Thursday night after a Via Rail train hit a pickup truck near the provincial border.

Via spokeswoman Mylène Bélanger said Train 59, which left Montreal at 4 p.m. Thursday, hit a vehicle at a private crossing near De Beaujeu, Que., about two hours east of Ottawa, at about 5 p.m.

None of the 62 passengers on board the train was hurt, Bélanger said. She said she was told that a person inside the truck was injured but alive.

Local police were investigating.

Rob Annan, a passenger aboard the train, said in an email to the Citizen that he "barely felt anything" when the crash happened. He said he heard "a faint bang" outside the train and then "saw a blur outside the window."

The locomotive engineers immediately hit the brakes, Annan said, but the stop wasn't violent.

"There was no screeching, no significant disturbance on board," he wrote, "but it was clear we were stopping suddenly."

Annan, an Ottawa resident coming home from meetings in Montreal, wrote that Via crews "have been very communicative throughout."

"They told us that we had hit a pickup truck at a private crossing (on a farm), and that the mechanical crew had run back to the incident to check on the situation."

Then, 45 minutes later, he said Via staff announced to passengers that there were no fatalities but that "there were injuries and that police were on the scene."

Bélanger confirmed that the crash happened at a rail crossing on private property. Such crossings normally do not have lights and barriers.

The train was scheduled to arrive in Ottawa at about 6 p.m. but was expected to be delayed by about two hours, Bélanger said, adding that the train's engineers were relieved of their duties because of the traumatic nature of such an incident.

Annan said the atmosphere on board the train was calm.

"I'm very relieved that there were no fatalities, as is everyone else on board," he wrote. "People are very patient. Particularly given that things could have been much worse."

Alexandria Station's Centennial

Alexandria Ontario - Francis Drouin MP for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, Grant Crack Mayor of the Township of North Glengarry, Chris McDonell, and Yves Desjardins-Siciliano VIA CEO, marked the 100-year anniversary of the heritage Alexandria train station.

To celebrate this major event VIA Rail gave a gift of 10 sugar maples to residents of the Township of North Glengarry, representing the Station's 10 decades of history and the collaboration between the township and VIA Rail.

The sugar maple tree is the emblem of Canada and was selected for its sturdiness and stately beauty.

A commemorative plaque marking this anniversary was also unveiled at the press conference.

100 Years of History

Alexandria Station opened in 1917 and welcomed its very first passengers.

A century later, more than 15,000 travellers pass through this station every year.

Author unknown.

OKthePK Joint Bar Editor: Article abridged.