

Local Railway Items from Area Papers - Beachburg subdivision

19/01/1894 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg

From an item in the District News this week, it will be seen that it is now proposed to bring a railway from Pembroke to Renfrew by way of Beachburg and Foresters' Falls: in order to connect with the several railways already centering here. The scheme is being gone into with some vim, evidently, and between the natural desire of Pembroke to get a line competing with the C.P.R., and the very probably willingness of the O.A. & P.S. to have all possible feeders for their traffic, - it is quite possible that the new project will get beyond the charter stage. It must be remembered, too, that a road following the route suggested would pass through just that section of Ross or Horton where the proposed line from Pontiac county would strike after crossing the Ottawa river; and if a combination of forces could be effected, one track would do for both roads for some miles before entering Renfrew, with consequent saving of construction expenses. Some such scheme as this may yet evolve; and if Renfrewites see a chance to put in a helping word or hand at any time it would be good policy to say the word or do the deed. With the best of wishes for the prosperity of every town arounds - still, let all roads lead to Renfrew.

23/08/1906 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

The engineers of the C.N. railway are now engaged in preliminary survey work on the proposed line along the front of this county-- the staff was at Bristol Corners last week. More.

19/10/1906 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg

From the Arnprior Watchman, Sand Point correspondent: The McKenzie and Mann surveying party at Portage du Fort have located the ground to build their new railway depot and yard. The Portage du Fort people are jubilant over the almost sure prospects of having at long and at last a real railroad. The surveying party leaving Portage expects to meet on their way down another party at Bell's Corners coming up.

09/11/1906 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg Chats Falls

From the Arnprior Chronicle: Engineer Hughes and party arrived in town on Monday to do some location work for the Canadian Northern R'y Co. at the Chats rapids. It has been definitely decided, Mr. Hughes says, that this section of the new transcontinental line shall cross the Ottawa at the Chats rapids near Fitzroy Harbour and recross the same stream at Portage du Fort and run up thorough Westmeath, which fine farming township as at present without a railway. Thus Carleton Place, Almonte, Arnprior and Renfrew are to be given the go-by, as had for some weeks been expected here. --

07/12/1906 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg

From the Carp Review: Mr. Hughes and his staff of engineers finished their work for the Canadian Northern Railway in the Carp section the first of the week. Their division, between Hawkesbury and Pembroke, is now finished and the route laid out. The railway will cross the G.T.R. below South March station about two miles, and will strike that village running along Lake Constance to Dunrobin. From there it will continue between 2nd and 3rd line to the English church on 2nd line of Torbolton, about a mile from Woodlawn, where a station will be built. From there it will cross the town line between Torbolton and Fitzroy, and a station for Fitzroy Harbor will be built about lot 13 on the forced road to Galetta being about a mile and a quarter from the Harbor. There it will cross the Ottawa river at the foot of Chats Lake. It is not expected that any changes will be made in the above unless it is to run the line a little closer to Fitzroy Harbor. It will be a couple of years at least before this portion of the road is built, as the company are at present looking to their interests in the west. Mr. Hughes has let for Toronto where he will be engaged in the survey of that division.

31/01/1907 Pembroke Observer Beachburg Pembroke

Railways for Pembroke

The Northern will enter along with others

Pembroke is destined to become a great railway centre. In addition to the two present railways we are getting the Canadian Northern from Ottawa and also we have two bright prospects of getting a line from Pembroke straight to Peterboro built by the Northern company to connect with their main line to Toronto which will put Pembroke in connection with Toronto by seven hours run. The C.P.R. will also run the K. & P. to Pembroke, also connect Pembroke with a line striking the P.P.J. at some suitable point. With the coming of all these roads and the prospect of cheap power in sight for manufacturers, we see no reason why Pembroke should not assume the dignity of a city in the near future.

11/06/1909 Eastern Ontario Review Beachburg Ottawa

The Canadian Northern Railway has filed at the Ottawa City Hall a plan of entrance to the city from the west in connection with its Toronto line. A notice has been received that an application for approval will be heard by the minister of railways on the 18th of June. The plan as filed shows that the line would be constructed south of the Rideau river and curving gradually to a junction with the New York Central line south of Hurdman's Bridge.

06/08/1910 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Norway Bay

Norway Bay Advance

Line of Boats and Railway now Talked Of

Mckenzie and Mann are contemplating the construction of a railroad west of Ottawa which will touch on Norway Bay. The company also propose to put on a line of boats between Sand Point, Arnprior and Norway Bay. ---

13/07/1911 Rideau Record Beachburg Hogs back bridge

Work is to be started this week on the new C.N.R. Bridge over the Rideau River one mile south of Hogs Back. The cost of the bridge is estimated at \$40,000

05/10/1911 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg Portage du Fort

A staff of engineers arrived at Portage du Fort a few days ago to locate the site for the crossing of the Canadian Northern railway somewhere in the vicinity of "Lazy Schenail," some distance upriver from the village. --

02/11/1911 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

Billings Bridge, Hogs Back

In connection with the construction of the C.N.R. lines into this city, a huge concrete culvert is now under construction at Billings Bridge between two hills about one hundred feet apart. The work of excavating for the foundation of the culvert was commenced about two weeks ago and it was only today that the first concrete was mixed and set in place.

The foundations will be twenty feet high and on top of this will be placed twenty more feet of grading material, which will bring the top to track level, forty feet above the bottom of the hills between which the culvert is being constructed. While the work on the culvert is being rushed at a great pace, it is not thought that it will be completed for over a month yet.

Operations have also been commenced on the new Rideau River bridge which crosses near Hogs Back and which will be part of the C.N.R. Smiths Falls - Ottawa line. It will have three spans of 100 feet and two of seventy-five feet, and is to be constructed of concrete and steel throughout. This work is also being rushed but will not be completed before the spring.

A shortage of labor is to some extent hindering the progress of the C.N.R. construction, but it is being rushed ahead as quickly as possible, and it is hoped that by the first of the year the steel will be laid as far as the Metcalfe Road.

08/11/1911 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

Hurdman

The C.N.R. yesterday began construction of the last link of the Ottawa to Toronto line.

Workmen have begun the laying of steel rails beyond Hurdman's Bridge, about a mile and three quarters from the centre of the city and not far from the local C.N.R. station.

The connecting link is to be built from this city to Sydenham.

Mr. J.P. Malarkey, the well known local contractor, who has the contract for the construction of the road, is now in the city superintending the work from this end. The distance from here to Sydenham is 90 miles and the rails will be laid from this end first over the road which is practically all graded.

"We shall have the contract complete within a year," says Mr. Mullarkey, and this will mean that the line from here to Toronto will be ready for business. He says from Trenton to Sydenham the trains will run over the old Bay of Quinte road.

About 13,00 [sic] men are rushing the work, and when it is finished, the shortest line from the Capital to the Queen City will be in operation. Sir William MacKenzie, the president of the C.N.R., says the road will be running into a station in the centre of the city.

16/11/1911 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

Rideau River Hogs back

Work on the construction of the Canadian Northern bridge to span the Rideau River at Hogs Back, which means the last step of the actual entrance of the C.N.R. into the city commenced today and will be completed early in the spring. The bridge will be about 400 feet long and about 30 feet wide. From Rideau Junction to the C.N.R. up town station, wherever it will be double tracks will be laid. Before next fall the line from Ottawa to Toronto will be in operation.

21/11/1911 *Rideau Record*

Beachburg

Rideau River Hogs back

Main News

Work on the construction of the CNR Bridge to span the Rideau River at Hogs Back was commenced on Thursday and will be completed early in the spring. The bridge will be 400 feet long and about 30 feet wide. Double tracks will be laid from Rideau Junction to the CNR station in Ottawa.

27/11/1911 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

The C.N.R. will make application to the Railway Commission on December 5 for authority to cross the C.P.R. tracks near Chaudiere Junction on hand signal until July 31, 1912. After that date the C.N.R. may apply for permission to install an interlocking plant.

The object of the C.N.R. in wanting to cross the C.P.R. at the point in question is to facilitate the construction of the line to Toronto from Ottawa. Chaudiere Junction is half way between Billings Bridge and Hogs Back.

The C.N.R. want an extension of time to install an interlocker at the G.T.R. and C.P.R. crossing near the entrance to Ottawa.

The Board ordered the installation some time ago.

05/12/1911 *Rideau Record*

Beachburg

Rideau Junction Hogs back

Buying More Land

Messrs Mackenzie and Mann has just made another big purchase of land at Hogs Back. The property adjoined that already owned by the C.N.R. in that district, where it is proposed to erect car shops, roundhouses and other buildings. It is stated that the CNR interest in that locality now totals 700 acres. It is understood that the company has an option on 300 more acres there, which they intend to take over shortly. The price paid for the 129 acres purchased last week was \$25,000.

09/12/1911 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

The contract for the last link of the eastern section of the Canadian Northern Transcontinental Railway between Ottawa and Pembroke, a distance of about 90 miles, has been awarded to Mr. J.P. Mullarkey, of Montreal.

Description of the line.

14/12/1911 *Rideau Record*

Beachburg

Contract Let - For Another Link in the Eastern Section of the C.N.R.

The contract for the last link of the eastern section of the Canadian Northern Transcontinental Railway between Ottawa and Pembroke, a distance of about 90 miles, has been awarded to J.P. Mullarkey, of Montreal.

The new line passes through Nepean, South March, Carp, Torbolton and Fitzroy harbor thence across the Ottawa river, about one mile above the mile famous "Chats Falls", thence through Bristol, Clarendon and Portage du Fort where the Ottawa river is again crossed, thence through Foresters Falls, Beachburg, Westmeath and Pembroke. The line will open up and develop a territory both in Ontario and Quebec greatly in need of railway communication. The bridge across the Ottawa River at Fitzroy harbor and Portage du Fort will be constructed during the present winter and the grading commenced early next year.

Construction on the Sydenham - Smiths Falls - Ottawa section is progressing satisfactory and will be completed next fall. The Hawkesbury - Montreal line will also be finished next fall and then the Canadian Northern will have a through line between Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

22/12/1911 *Eganville Leader*

Beachburg

Construction on the Ottawa-Pembroke branch of the transcontinental C.N.R. line will commence within a month's time. The statement was made by Mr. J. P. Mullarkey, who was some months ago awarded the contract for this part of the line.

The construction of the road from Ottawa to Pembroke will involve the construction of two of the biggest railway bridges that have been built around the Capital for some time. One above Chats Falls across the Ottawa River will be a bridge of some twenty spans while another, where the steel crosses the river at Portage du Fort, will also be a big structure. The combined cost will be in the hundred thousands.

The distance from Ottawa to Pembroke by the C.N.R. will be about 92 miles shorter than that along the route of any other road. It is supposed to be ready for traffic by 1913, but Mr. Mullarkey hopes to finish it by the end of next year.

05/01/1912 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

Rideau Junction

Work stopped on Metcalfe road bridge pending decision of the Board of Railway Commissioners with regard to widening of the road. More.

The railway commissioners must now decide the dispute between the Canadian Northern Railway and the council of South Gloucester township in connection with the bridge the company was building at Billings Bridge.

Some time ago the council stopped the work for the reason that the roadway would not be wide enough and instead of using the 40 feet which the company had secured the council is trying to compel them to use 66 feet.

The railway company, on the other hand, claim that they are already under considerable expense for the work done and that to make another start would mean a greater loss.

It is not yet quite settled whether the city will insist on an even greater width still, 80 feet, and in such cases Judge Maybee has intimated the city will have to bear the additional cost entailed by the 80 feet width. But Judge Maybee has also intimated to the railway company will be ordered to make the viaduct the full width of the roadway, 66 feet.

No formal order of the Railway Board has yet been made as the secretary, Mr. A.D. Cartwright, understands that it awaits a resolution from the city council.

At all events, the width of the viaduct will be not less than 66 feet.

19/01/1912 *Renfrew Mercury**Beachburg**Pembroke*

Pembroke council will try to get the C.N.R. to bring its station into town. As now laid out on the plan, The Observer says: the profile of the projected C.N.O. Ry. as presented to council at last Monday's meeting shows the line as crossing the C.P.R. About five and a half miles east of the town, near the Government road crossing, and coming up through Mr. P. White's farm, skirting the town limits, with the station probably at the other side of the Indian river bridge. A profile such as this allows for a deviation half a mile either way, and it is not considered at all likely that the company proposes going that far away from the business centre of the town. The company claims that in coming to Pembroke at all an expensive deviation from the line at first proposed is being made. In view of this it may be taken for granted that it is not the intention of the company to put the railway out of reach of the freight and passenger traffic of a town served, as Pembroke is, by two existing railways. The Observer understands that the C.P.R. is renewing its efforts to secure a site for a more centrally located freight shed while the Grand Trunk has plans under way for extensive improvements to its yard and, station accommodation and terminal facilities here. Shrewd businessmen like MacKenzie and Mann are not going to spend money in a costly deviation of their line, and then remain where they can hope for little or no business from the town to reach which they undertook this heavy additional expenditure. A change in the C.N.R.'s plans as they regard Pembroke is due before long.

09/02/1912 *Perth Courier**Beachburg*

Canadian Northern Railway

John Brennan, of Arnprior, has secured the contract of building the two immense bridges of the CNR at Fitzroy Harbor and Portage du Fort and all the right of way on the Quebec side between the two places. He will have associated with him in the work, James McDonald of Smiths Falls.

09/02/1912 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Billings Bridge*

It is likely the C.N.R. viaduct to be built near Billings Bridge will be only 44 feet wide. The city solicitor reported to the board of control yesterday that the Railway Commission was giving an order for a 44 foot viaduct as the authorities of the township principally concerned had intimated to the commission that the 44 foot width was satisfactory to them.

The commissioners will however give the city ten days in which to notify them that it is willing to have the viaduct made wider and pay the extra cost.

This would be about \$15,000 and Controller McClenaghan and others yesterday came to the conclusion when the township authorities were not specially interested the city council representatives would hardly be justified in spending \$15,000 of the ratepayers' money on an improvement beyond the city limits.

It looks now as if the viaduct will be a 44 foot one.

15/02/1912 *The Equity, Shawville**Beachburg*

When the Canadian Northern Railway is constructed along the front of Clarendon it is said that some of the farmers down there are going to have more railway than they actually need as several houses and barns are directly in the line of the proposed track, and will have to come down. How different when our own P.P.J. was under construction. Then it became quite an easy matter to dodge a pine stump when it obstructed the way, and from the character of the road after it was first built, these obstructions must have been numerous.

29/02/1912 *The Equity, Shawville**Beachburg*

The Fitzroy Harbor correspondent of the Carp Review last week said: The local officials employed by the C.N.R. are making purchases of land on the route surveyed for their new line, and are very busy with these preliminary operations.--

02/03/1912 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg*

As soon as the snow clears off the ground an army of men will begin to rush construction of the C.N.R. road to Pembroke, which is the first link of the C.N.R. line between Ottawa and North Bay.

This information is learned from Mr. J.P. Mullarky, who is at the Russell, the contractor for the road. He has all the supplies ready and when he makes a start it will be a comparatively few months before the road is finished.

Early this fall the C.N.R. road from Hawkesbury to Montreal will be open for traffic. This will make a through Canadian Northern line from Ottawa to Montreal. The road from Ottawa to Hawkesbury is already in operation.

27/03/1912 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Tramway*

Construction operations will be resumed in full blast next week by Messrs. Dolan and Code, contractors for the construction of the C.N.R. line in the vicinity of Billings Bridge and crossing the Metcalfe Road.

A thousand feet of temporary trestle has recently been erected. This will be used for the dump carts to carry earth and other material used to fill in the road bed of the railway line. The height of this trestle work varies from four to forty feet, according to the nature of the ravine to be spanned. Six hundred feet of the trestle work is constructed on the east side of the Metcalfe Road and the remaining four hundred feet on the western side.

At present only a few men are engaged but a large gang will be put on next week and the building operations rushed. The first work that will be taken up will be that of the completion of the eastern abutment. Owing to the change in plans for this wing, last fall, there still remains considerable excavation to be done before the foundation will be ready to receive its hundreds of tons of concrete.

Other work along the line is reported to be progressing favorably.

30/03/1912 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg*

That the building of the C.N.R. line between Ottawa and Pembroke will be proceeded with this spring there now seems little doubt. Engineer Whitney and his staff are now at work revising the location between Westmeath and Pembroke, and it is expected that as soon as they complete this part of the work the right of way men will commence operations.

The next step will be to commence construction and once commenced the undertaking will be rushed to completion. There have been for some time past, rumors afloat that the company was experiencing some difficulty in financing the road, but from present indications, even if this be true, it is not likely to affect this part of the line, for as a matter of fact work on the Chats bridge at Fitzroy has already been commenced. Mr. P.J. Mullarky, the contractor for the Ottawa - Pembroke division, has all along declared that work would be proceeded with as soon as spring opened and local contractors are preparing to make an early start.

03/04/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Hogs back

"We are going to build car shops in Ottawa of course," said Sir William MacKenzie, president of the Canadian Northern, "But, whether they will be big shops built at Hogs Back, I cannot say at present."

04/04/1912 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

All doubts of the C.N.R. Co. constructing the proposed line along the front of the county, from the Chats Falls to the point above Portage du Fort, have been pretty well dissipated during the past ten days by the fact that an official of the company has been through the district arranging with the landowners for the purchase of the right-of-way, a stroke of business which seems to have been accomplished without much difficulty, judging from the short time it took. Another evidence of assurance that the line will be built, is seen in the large quantity of timber which Mr. Wm. Hodgins has delivered at the point where the Ottawa River is to be crossed, to be used in connection with bridge construction.

--question of location of the station--

04/04/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Rideau Junction

It is learned that plans are under way to purchase several hundreds of acres of land about eight miles from the city for the location of the C.N.R. car yards. The exact place is not decided upon but it will be either on the C.N.R. Ottawa - Toronto line or on the Ottawa - Port Arthur line.

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The intention of the C.N.R. it was said was to build the yards nearer the city than at present contemplated but realizing that the city will grow quickly, it was considered advisable to go out far enough where sufficient land could be bought at a moderate price.

According to the present plans, electric engines will be used for switching purposes and also for taking cars to and from Ottawa.--

12/04/1912 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg

All doubts of the C.N.R. co. constructing the proposed line along the front of the county from the Chats Falls to a point above Portage du Fort, have been pretty well dissipated during the past ten days by the fact that an official of the company has been through the district arranging with land owners for the purchase of the right-of-way, a stroke of business that seems to have been accomplished without much difficulty, judging from the short amount of time that it took. Another evidence of assurance that the line will be built, is seen in the large quantity of timber which Mr. Wm. Hodgins has delivered at the point where the Ottawa river is to be crossed, to be used in connection with bridge construction. With the prospect thus brightened the people along the front of Clarendon are now interesting themselves in the question of the location of the station which will be necessary to serve the requirements of that section. On this matter we learn that opinion is divided, some favouring one point and some another. This is a question in which the citizens of Shawville should have something to say, as the new line is bound to have an influence on the future trade prospects of this town. It would be well, therefore, to move to have the station located at the point believed to be the most advantageous to our local business interests. - Shawville Equity.

18/04/1912 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

Mr. MacKenzie of the C.N.R. engineering staff, conferred with the Clarendon council last week, in regard to the crossings at the several points where the railway will intersect with the highways along the front of the township.

26/04/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

At the route map hearings before Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Railways and Canals, this morning the routes of the C.N.R. were reached of importance to Renfrew and Prescott counties.

It was decided that the C.N.R. would pass through either Pembroke or Churchville, a suburban village, which will inevitably become a part of the town. This is according to a resolution passed by the Pembroke town council, and it was agreed to by a delegation from the Renfrew town introduced by Mr. Gerald White M.P.

28/05/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Pembroke

C.N.R. wants \$25,000 bonus from Pembroke. Would then make town a divisional point.--

28/05/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Billings Bridge

The "end" of steel on the Canadian Northern Railway Ottawa-Toronto line has now reached the Metcalfe road near Billings Bridge and finished close on to three miles of completed track out of Ottawa on the Ottawa and Smiths Falls sections.

Although the large eighty pound steel rails have only been pushed across the high trestlework spanning the mammoth cement arch for a few days, already close onto twenty-five thousand cubic yards of sand and roadbed material has been dumped on either side of the track. Two construction trains of twelve cars each and pulled by a locomotive carry tons of sand and grading material from the Canadian Northern yard at Hurdman's Bridge to the Bank street work. The trains make half hour trips over the single track road, the cars being loaded by a mammoth steam shovel at the C.N.R. sand pit on the Hurdman road.

A Journal representative who visited the scene of operations yesterday, through the courtesy of Supt. Thomas Brennan, was allowed to enter the cab of the construction engine, and travel over the newly completed roadbed.

All along the line from Hurdman's Bridge to the Metcalfe road gangs of men are engaged digging ditches, grading the slope of the track and doing everything to rush the construction work along.

At the Metcalfe road a big improvement is noticeable since two or three weeks ago. The big east abutment, thirty feet in height, is completed and stands a solid block of concrete weighing thousands of tons. The trestle, with its long spider like supports, is finished and the new steel rails, glisten from their eminence on its top. A large gang of men are employed nearby on the east side of the road, working like venerable bees in levelling and shovelling the grading material.

On the western side of the road, operations for the building of the western abutments are being carried on. Already the foundation is in and the wooden frame to hold the concrete is being erected. Owing to the grounds on the western side of the road being considerably lower than the opposite side, a steam hoist will be used to convey the thousands of tons of cement, this hoist has a lifting capacity of four tons and will carry one of the large buckets full from the giant cement mixer nearby.

The west abutment will be completed about the middle of June and will be thirty-three feet high, and contain three thousand five hundred tons of cement.

Messrs Dolan and Code are the contractors for the cement work, and J.P. Mullarkey is contractor for the grading and roadbed work.

06/06/1912 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

Wet weather has interfered to the extent of stopping the work on the C.N.R. where a commencement was made in Bristol township.--

07/06/1912 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg

Some time next week Messrs. Munroe, Moffatt & Fortin will probably turn the first sod in the building of the C.N.O. Ry. line from Beachburg to Pembroke, for which they have the contract. The lumber for the building of camps at the Beachburg end, where the work will be started, has arrived and the building of the camps will be but the work of a few days. Their plant is on the way while supplies are now being secured and men engaged. A scarcity of labour is not anticipated, although wages will be fairly high. "On to Pembroke," will be the slogan as soon as work is started and the contract will be rushed to completion as quickly as possible. Nothing, of course, can be done on this end of the contract until the point of entrance into and the route through the town has been decided which, from the present prospects may be three months hence. Meantime the firm will be making steady progress towards Pembroke. Observer.

13/06/1912 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg Portage du Fort

Mr. Wm. Hodgins has taken the contract for the delivery of the cement to be used in building the C.N.R. bridge which is to span the Ottawa River above Portage du Fort.

27/06/1912 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

G.A. Howard sent a few teams down to Bristol, Monday to work on the C.N.R. construction.

06/07/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Rideau River Hogs back

Includes two photographs of construction.

Twelve thousand bags of cement in bridge.

C.N.R. five span structure over the Rideau is huge undertaking.

Spanning the Rideau River, about four miles and a half from the city, the Canadian Northern Railway has a few span bridges under excellent headway.

The cement piers, four in number, are already finished, also the abutments on the eastern side.

All that remains to be done at present, to allow the wooden trestle work to be started is topping off the western abutment with about four feet of cement, which will be finished in the course of the coming week. Each pier is fifty feet in height from the bottom of the foundation, about ten feet below the surface at low water.

No difficulties or delays were experienced throughout the operation save with pier No. 4 on the western side, and here it was due to the erroneous soundings of those who went before.

Marked in the plan as rock foundation, the base of pier No. 4 was to measure 16 feet by 36 feet, but when actual work was begun, quicksand formation was discovered necessitating the enlargement of the base to 20 feet by 40 feet.

A drill was sunk in the middle of the proposed base in the primary stages of erection and on being drawn out water followed it as in an artesian well. One hundred and twenty-eight piles were driven for support and the work since has been speedily carried on. Between 12,000 and 15,000 bags of cement have been used in the cement work of abutments and piers.

Simultaneously with the work on the bridge supports, two twenty-five foot cement walls are being built about 500 feet away from the western abutment, for the purpose of bridging the Metcalfe Road, the approach to be made by way of a cedar trestle. Were it not for this extra piece of work, trestle work could have been started this week.

There will be five spans in the new bridge. From either abutment to the nearest pier the span will be 76 feet 6 inches, and three central spans of 100 feet 4 inches. The graded embankment on the east side running through the Dowler Farm is being rushed so that the laying of tracks will be possible with the completion of the bridges, which will be by the first of September.

Double tracking will be placed on the new bridge and the road from Ottawa to Toronto which will be open to traffic before the end of the present year.

Something less than a mile away, construction work on the main line, Montreal to Vancouver, is being carried on to form a junction with the Ottawa - Toronto line at this point.

Construction of the cement work was under the able superintendency of Mr. Charles Johnston.

25/07/1912 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

Portage du Fort

Mr. William Hodgins' teams began hauling the cement last week for the C.N.R. bridge above Portage du Fort. An immense quantity will be used.

27/07/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Norway Bay

Norway Bay. The residents of the Bay are much elated over the prospects of the Canadian Northern Railway which is being rapidly constructed in close proximity to the Bay. It is expected that a station will be built at a convenient distance, so as to allow the campers easy access to the Bay. The C.N.R. will follow the Ontario shore as far as the Chats Falls, where the Ottawa will be bridged, then along the Quebec side as far as Snow Boom where the Ottawa will again be crossed. This railway will considerably lessen the distance from Ottawa to Norway Bay.

29/08/1912 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

It is said the railway contractors who are grading the line of the C.N.R. along the front of Bristol and Clarendon, are finding it hard to secure men, although fairly good wages are offered. --

31/08/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Fitzroy

A new contract on a C.N.R. rock cut has been let to a Montrealer, the name of whom cannot be learned. The contract will be a difficult one to fulfill as the rock in this district is of remarkable hardness and dulls the drills in a very short time. Two blacksmiths are kept busy sharpening the drills.

03/10/1912 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Rideau River Hogs back

The Canadian Northern Railway Company's line from Toronto to Ottawa will probably be running for freight purposes, if not for passenger traffic before the close of the year. This is the expectation of the officials of the C.N.R.

The new big steel bridge over the Rideau is now practically completed which, with the bridge over the Jock River already completed, leaves the section from Ottawa to Smiths Falls ready for the putting down of the rails. The work on this is the next to be undertaken.

04/10/1912 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg

Pembroke

Describing the route of the Canadian Northern through the county town, the Observer says: the crossing of the C.P.R. will be about three-quarters of a mile below the Government Road, instead of on this side, as stated last week. The survey, as stated, runs about 50 feet south of Wellington street and will cross McKay street at Mrs. Wolfe's. Taking a sharp curve from McKay's across the river to the west end of the bridge (over the ? Moffatt property) there will be an overhead crossing of main street and the line will run over the Milling Co's office to Moffatt's hill. Somewhere on that hill the station may be located, but it is quite possible also that property for a station may be purchased on either side of McKay street, near the C.P.R. This, however, is a matter which has not yet been decided upon. The location of the shops is another matter which is at present engaging the attention of the company's officials. The survey through the town is completed.

10/10/1912 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

The C.N.R. engineers have prepared a plan of the proposed station for Clarendon Front on lots 15 and 16, range 2, for the council's approval or otherwise. --

19/10/1912

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Rideau Junction Hogs back

It has been definitely decided, the Journal is informed, that the main car shops of the Canadian Northern Railway will be located at Rideau Junction on the east [sic] bank of the Rideau Canal, near Hog's Back.

There has been doubt for some time as to whether the main shops of the company would be located there or not. It has been known that Sir William Mackenzie favoured Toronto, but it is stated to the Journal that the engineering department of the company, which all along has held the view that the strategic point of the system was Ottawa, succeeded last week in satisfying the directors of the reasonableness of that opinion and it was decided definitely that arrangements would be made forthwith to that end.

Rideau Junction will therefore become an important railway town. Within a few years five thousand employees of the Canadian Northern Railway will be located there, right on the borders of the capital.

It is understood that the Canadian Northern magnates have no desire to have to new town annexed to the city. In fact they will lay their plans for a separate and complete community. They will begin at once upon the scheme. The town will have its own waterworks system, and its own electric light and gas. There will be macadam and tar macadam roads, and everything will be of the most up to date and convenient character.

A number of officials of the company have been here during the past few days making the preliminary arrangements.

Five thousand employes with their families and the general business that a community creates, means that in a few years, Rideau Junction, or whatever its name is to be will be a city of at least twenty thousand inhabitants.

30/10/1912

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Rideau Junction

Canadian Northern Railway half page advertisement. Includes a plan showing the area of the wye at Rideau Junction with the land reserved for railway purposes and on all three sides land has been subdivided for houses

"An electric gasoline car service will be in operation between Rideau and Ottawa next spring."

Company ran an excursion by the steamer "Wanekewan" for the purpose of enabling interested persons to choose property. Nov. 1 from foot of Slater street at the canal basin, admission by ticket issued by the company.

01/11/1912

Renfrew Mercury

Beachburg

Fitzroy Harbour

Fitzroy Harbour is to have a railroad station and it will have a chance to say where it is to be situated. It will be on the new transcontinental line of the C.N.R. The question will come before the railway commission on Nov. 8th. The C.N.R. is applying for approval of its location.

08/11/1912

Renfrew Mercury

Beachburg

Fitzroy Harbour

The Canadian Northern Railway Company's site for a station at Fitzroy Harbour was approved by the railway commission this morning. Some objection was taken by a municipality of Fitzroy, whose reeve appeared in protest against the proposed crossing of two roads by the line to the station. The idea of the railway was to have the two roads which it would under present conditions intersect within a few rods of each other, brought together to make one crossing over the railway line from where they could then again separate and this was approved by the board. - Citizen.

16/11/1912

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Rideau Junction

Ottawa is to have a new trolley line electric line next spring operated by the C.N.R. between Ottawa and Rideau Junction.

This will be a rather unique form of transportation as it will be a combination of the electric and gasoline car. The car will be similar to the large ones used on the Britannia line. The C.N.R. are operating a number of these between Quebec and like St. John with much success.

The C.N.R. station at Rideau Junction will be erected next spring and will cost about \$20,000.

22/11/1912

Renfrew Mercury

Beachburg

Fitzroy

To Messrs. W.P. Costello and Gordon Munro, two young men of Pembroke, has the contract of constructing the big C.N.R. railway bridge near Fitzroy Harbour been sub-let by Messrs. John Brennan and Hugh Grant, who are chief contractors for all work to be done between Fitzroy Harbour and Portage du Fort, all of which is now under way except the harbour bridge, and this will now be commenced as soon as Messrs. Costello and Munro can get their plant on the ground. The Harbour bridge will be of steel and concrete and will have a length measurement of 1502 feet and it will be built for railway traffic only. Although the Harbour bridge is a large one, it is much smaller than the one now under construction at Portage du Fort. - Arnprior Chronicle.

29/11/1912

Renfrew Mercury

Beachburg

Pembroke

Canadian Northern station outside of Pembroke.

Would cause too much upsetting of conditions to go through the town. Full account.

24/01/1913

Renfrew Mercury

Beachburg

Pembroke

On Monday last the C.N.R. submitted to the town council a new route through the town. In this route the divisional yards and workshops will be situated at White's Farm. From this point the main line runs towards the town crossing the G.T.R. tracks and the Muskrat River near Foster's Axe Factory. Crossing the southern corner of Churchville a spur will run into Pembroke, leaving the main line at Gourley's Farm, then crossing the Indian river at the late Jamieson bridge running over W. Witt's property to the western side of William street on Moffatt's Point, then running on as far north as Mary street near Witt's embankment. The local stations and freight yards will be situated between Mary and Elizabeth streets, occupying the western half of that block. The spur again joins the main line at Churchville. - Pembroke Standard.

28/01/1913

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Airport spur

The Canadian Northern has closed with an Ottawa land syndicate re. the purchase of two farms on the other side of Billings Bridge. The farms were formerly known as the Upton and Langstaff properties, and it is understood the railway will use them for gravel pit purposes. As the deal was closed directly with the Toronto office the purchase price is not known. It has been estimated at \$30,000.

31/01/1913

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Rideau Junction

Rumors of extensive operations to take place at Rideau Junction next spring are now leaking out from C.N.R. quarters. It the first place it has been almost definitely announced that excavation work on the new station will be commenced in the spring and it is understood that the C.N.R. will erect a modern fireproof structure at this point and it will cost not less than \$30,000. The C.N.R. has sold many new lots on this new townsite and from a statement made by one of the officials this morning the C.N.R. will spare no pains to make this townsite a beautifully and flourishing railway centre.

01/04/1913

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Pembroke

C.N.R. access to Pembroke to be decided by Board of Railway Commissioners.--

03/04/1913

The Equity, Shawville

Beachburg

Several heavy blasts were heard on Sunday in the direction of the C,N,R, line. Evidently the ordinances of the Sabbath do not figure of the estimates of railroad builders to any greater extent than with the managers of the railways after which they are built.

04/04/1913

Renfrew Mercury

Beachburg

Pembroke

Application by C.N.R. for a route through Pembroke heard by the BRC - to come up next week.

10/04/1913 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg Portage du Fort

The engineers of the C.N.R. gave a swell dance in the Town hall, Portage du Fort, on Wednesday night last. These gentlemen were lavish in their invitations, and the response was generous, representatives from the whole surrounding district being present. Young people from Shawville, Bryson, Campbell's Bay, Coulonge, Westmeath, Pembroke, Renfrew, Amprior and Ottawa were in attendance and shared fully in the distinguished function. Valentin orchestra supplied the music.

23/04/1913 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Ottawa

The Canadian Northern Railway will have a station in Ottawa before the end of the year, according to Mr. S.J. Montgomery, city ticket agent. "We expect to have trains running over the line from Ottawa to Toronto within the present year," Mr. Montgomery said to the Journal. "Will you resume the service from Ottawa to Quebec before the completion of the Toronto line?" he was asked. "No," he replied, "it don't pay to carry passengers for the Quebec service down to the station in automobiles. When the Toronto line is finished, however, a station in the city will be absolutely necessary, and we will have one."

09/05/1913 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg Pembroke

The difficulties over the entrance of the C.N.R. line to Pembroke seem within reasonable distance of settlement, and along lines we feel sure will prove satisfactory to the town as a whole. If we can have the trains run into the Grand Trunk station, either over the Grand Trunk tracks or by a parallel road, and all through passenger trains run into Pembroke, as well as local trains, and a grade separation be made at Mary street by the erection of a new bridge, we believe it will prove the most sensible and practical and servicable arrangement from every standpoint. - Pembroke Observer.

27/06/1913 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg Pembroke

From a railway source the Pembroke Observer is told that an agreement between the companies was signed last week whereby the C.N.R. will be given running rights over the G.T.R. track and joint use of the G.T.R. station. As a matter of fact negotiations for the land for the necessary sidings at the junction are now in progress and may be concluded at any time, it is the intention to have the junction at or near Foster's axe factory and the plan on the part of the C.N.R. is that trains from the west shall back into the station, while trains from the east will run in and back out.

03/09/1913 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Airport Spur

A peculiar case was heard in the chambers of Judge MacTavish at the court house this morning, in which the C.N.R. sought to take possession of a right of way for the construction of a spur line in the Township of Gloucester, for the carrying of gravel.

The proposed line would cut through the properties of nine farmers of the township. The railway company offered \$5,000 compensation but the farmers wanted a larger figure.

Counsel for the railway company made application to deposit a few hundred dollars in court as an evidence of good faith.

The property in question partly belongs to the Ottawa Hunt Club, Messrs. J. Gillespie, Dowler and McCarthy, farmers of the township.

The company requires a lease of five years and offered as compensation amounts averaging twenty-five dollars a year per acre. The judge decided to give the company permission to go ahead with the building of the line upon paying a deposit into the court for each farmer.

The final amount will be decided at a later date by arbitration.

23/10/1913 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

The laying of the steel in the line of the Canadian Northern Railway between Pembroke and the point of crossing the Ottawa River at Split Rock began at Pembroke last week, and the contractor, Mr. J.P. Mullarkey, expects that section, 27 miles in length, to be completed before the real cold weather sets in. The work of laying the steel on the section between Ottawa and the Chats rapids, will, it is also expected be completed at about the same time. Work on the two bridges, that at the Chats and the one at Split Rock, - will be carried on all winter with the object of having them completed in the Spring. Then tracklaying will be undertaken on the section running along the front of this county, the grading of which is now well advanced. The whole line between Ottawa and Pembroke, which is said to be 36 miles shorter than the C.P.R., will likely be in operation early next fall.

13/11/1913 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

A spur line is being built from the newly opened marble quarries in Ross to the line of the C.N.R. near Portage du Fort.

19/01/1914 Rideau Record Beachburg

Six Men Killed

Premature Explosion on C.N.R. Construction Work.

A dispatch from Ottawa says: Six men were killed and three others seriously injured in a dynamite explosion late Saturday on the C.N.R. construction work at Ross' Point, Quebec, opposite Amprior. The names of the dead so far as known are: Jos. Elliot, aged 22 single Bristol Mines; Stephen J. Truedeau, 32, wife and three children Bristol Mines; Duncan Herron aged 55 married no children Bristol Mines. The other three are foreigners.

19/01/1914 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Dynamite explosion kills 8 and injures 2 about eight miles from Quyon.

22/01/1914 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

Six men lost their lives on Saturday evening on the line of the C.N.R. in the vicinity of Ross Point Ferry, Bristol, as the result of a premature explosion in a rock cutting. More.

15/05/1914 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg Pembroke

The Observer says that contrary to reports work on the C.N.R. at Pembroke will proceed this summer. Mr. Dan McKenzie will be in charge of the track laying; a distance of about 60 miles remaining to be laid to complete the line to North Bay. Some large trestles have also to be filled in.

19/05/1914 Rideau Record Beachburg

C.N.R. Upper Line. Northern Ontario Section Will Be Ready In The Fall

A dispatch from Ottawa says: Some time next fall the Canadian Northern line now under construction from Ottawa to Port Arthur via Pembroke, Eastport, North Bay and Sudbury, will be put in operation for freight and local traffic and probably for traffic of all kinds, says Sir Donald Mann, vice-president of the C.N.R. With the completion of this line from Ottawa to Port Arthur, the Canadian Northern will have a through line in operation from Quebec to British Columbia.

02/06/1914 Rideau Record Beachburg

Brush Fires

Much damage has been done lately by bush fires along the C. N. R. near Pembroke. About eighteen miles from that town the engineers have had some trying experiences. Their camps have been completely destroyed, trestles along the railway line badly damaged, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they themselves escaped. The fire traveled to within five or six miles of Pembroke and in different sections the residents have been fighting continuously to save their buildings. Many miles of territory have been burned black and many thousands of dollars worth of timber have been destroyed. The fire is now under control.

Mr. J.H. Seguin, a contractor on the C.N.R. telephoned to the Journal this morning saying that he had ordered Mr. D.A. Martin, the Bank Street employment agent, to secure ten men for him, and that Mr. Martin had been unable to get the men notwithstanding the large number of unemployed men reported to be in Ottawa.

"One reason we could not secure men to work for Mr. Seguin, is that the men will not work for \$1.50 per day, which is what he offered to pay, as it would cost them a lot of money to live at Rideau Junction, where Mr. Seguin wanted the men to load cars," said Mr. Martin, "and another reason for the refusal of the men to go to Rideau Junction is that they are liable to miss an opportunity of obtaining an entire winter's work in the lumber woods, if they agreed to take the job with Mr. Seguin, which might not last more than a week."

Mr. Martin said that there is no boarding house at Rideau Junction and that the men would be expected to live in a tent and bring their own provisions from Ottawa. He said that Mr. Seguin had taken ten men up with him to this job a while ago, and when they realized the conditions under which they were supposed to work five of them quit the job at once.

Petty jealousies and trivial personal animosities were the outstanding features of the hearing before the Board of Railway Commissioners yesterday of the application of the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway to change the location of the station at March from mileage 22 from Ottawa to mileage 22.6 from Ottawa. While Mr. E.W. Oliver, of Toronto, watched the case on behalf of the railway company, its interests in the change of location were not voted at all. The whole proceedings, which took the whole morning, took the form of a battle of words between the residents of Armitage and the residents of Dunrobin, both in the township of March, as to the most suitable place to have the station.

The present station is situated at Armitage, about one half a mile from Lake Constant. Close by is flowing well and a creek from the lake. It is the contention of the railway company this water is too hard for boiling in their locomotives. The proposed new site for the station is in the village of Dunrobin, one half mile from the shores of Casey Lake, the water of which is claimed to be more suitable for the company's uses. The water facilities here are cited to be far more adequate than at the present location.

These facts, however, were more or less lost sight of by the thirty or more witnesses who testified on their respective sides as to the best location for the station. The Armitage body of residents told the commission that the station would serve its purpose and the surrounding country of it were left where it is. The Dunrobin witnesses claimed that no better location could be had than to have the station removed to that village. The whole trend of the morning's business was a to and fro argument by the two opposing bodies. The case is still proceeding. Mr. G. Kidd represents the March Council, Mr. Wentworth Green the residents of Armitage and Mr. Burgess for the residents of Dunrobin. (there is a garbled account in the previous day's issue)

A building contractor was here a few days ago, looking over the site of the several stations that are proposed to be erected along the line of the Northern railway, in Bristol, Clarendon and Portage du Fort, with a view, no doubt, of tendering for the work.

The new Ottawa-Toronto service of the Canadian Northern Railway opens today for the first time. For many months now negotiations have been in progress between the Central Station authorities and the Canadian Northern for running rights and terms of agreement affecting the station. All disagreements were cleared away Saturday and the contract was signed. Ottawa will now have an extra route to and from the Queen City.

The first train left the Ottawa Central station at 12.15 noon and the first through train from Toronto will arrive in Ottawa at 6.20 p.m. leaving the Toronto Union station at 9.20 a.m. The 12.15 train from Ottawa arrives at Toronto at 9.15 p.m.

The new line is unique in many ways; from Ottawa to Smiths Falls is almost as direct as the crow flies, a few thousand feet being the only variance. The lien travels direct through the Rideau Lakes district and opens up such important lake front cities as Belleville, Trenton, Picton, Brighton, Colborne, Coburg and Port Hope. Café parlour cars will operate on the Toronto trains serving meals a la carte.

The local train into Ottawa in the morning from the Rideau Lakes will also operate into the Central Station, arriving here at 8.50 a.m. and the local for Rideau Lakes points leaves from the Central Station at 5.15 p.m. On Saturday the service will be the same as on other week days, it being considered that the 12.15 train will serve those who can leave after a half day and a 5.15 Saturday train is expected to be convenient for those who come into the city for the day.

It has not yet been decided to operate the Hawkesbury and Joliette trains in and out of the Central Station and pending other changes these trains will leave from the Hurdman Road Station as at present.

More - connections with B. & W., K. & P., B of Q., details of timetable

Montreal. Mr. D.B. Hanna, vice-president of the Canadian Northern Railway was in the city yesterday afternoon and signed an agreement with the Grand Trunk by which the Canadian Northern secures the right to use the Grand Trunk tracks into Ottawa with the use of the Central Station as its terminus there. This now gives the Canadian Northern a central station for their trains from Toronto and western points, instead of using their outlying station at Hurdman's Road.

Orders were issued that all trains starting from Toronto last night should arrive at Ottawa this morning at the Central Station, and that all local trains should use the same terminus. The new arrangement will not affect the service from Montreal until after the new cut off is completed which will give the Canadian Northern direct service between Montreal and Ottawa.

As matters now stand, the Canadian Northern line will join the Grand Trunk at the Rideau bridge and the C.N.R. trains will use the Grand Trunk tracks into the Central Station. Eventually this will mean that the Central Station will become a really Union Station for Ottawa being used by the G.T.R., G.T.P., C.P.R., C.N.R., and N.Y. and Ottawa lines.

Notices to this effect were sent out by the Canadian Northern yesterday and it is regarded as a happy circumstance that the opening of the new arrangement will synchronize with the opening of parliament for the coming war session.

The C.N.R. line between North Bay and Pembroke was completed last week. Thirty-five miles have yet to be laid between the county town and Rideau Junction. It is expected that the line will be open for traffic this fall; it being understood that the Government desires to have the road completed as rapidly as possible, that if necessary troops from the west may be transported over it, says the Observer.

The C.N.R. bridge over the Ottawa river above Portage du Fort having been completed, tracklaying is now proceeding with fair progress on this side of the river, and on Sunday the rails were within a short distance of the crossing near Starks Corners. In a short time it is expected that Bristol Corners will get a view of the iron horse.

23/10/1914 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg Pembroke

Pembroke Observer 15th.

Quietly and without heralding his coming, Sir William Mackenzie - he of C.N.R. fame - slipped into Pembroke on Monday night in his private car Atikoken and spent the night in (illegible) leaving on Tuesday morning for Ottawa, his train attached to the G.T.R. morning local. With him was the C.N.R. superintendent, as well as Mr. Angus Sinclair, contractor for the Capreol - Pembroke division, Mr. A. Conninger, Mr. Sinclair's superintendent and others.

It was the first train over the Capreol - Pembroke division and many townspeople were surprised when they found that work on the line was so far advanced as to permit a train to pass over it. We understand that Sir William was quite pleased with the progress made on this part of the line and that the company is determined to rush the work to completion as speedily as possible.

Sir. William and his party made good time over the new line leaving Capreol about 8 a.m., they reached here about 6.30 p.m., the total distance being about 240 miles, while for about forty miles west of Pembroke no ballasting has yet been done and that part of the journey was very rough.

Messrs. Munro, Moffatt & Fortin have a large gang of men at work closing the gap in the grading east of Pembroke and this will be finished within a month.

The bridge over the Muskrat and the trestle leading thereto are also well under way, and when this is completed the laying of the few miles remaining to be done can be proceeded with. This will leave only the ballasting to do to finish the line between Ottawa and Capreol, so that trains will be running early next summer.

The work of ballasting from Pembroke west is now being proceeded with and if the line is needed this winter for military purposes it will be available.

In a few months Pembroke will be a stopping place on another great transcontinental railway line.

12/11/1914 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

The rails on the C.N.R. line are now well advanced through Bristol township, and in a short time connection will be made with the Ontario shore at the Chats Falls.

20/11/1914 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg

The Shawville Equity says that the rails on the C.N.R. are now well advanced through Bristol township, and in a short time connection will be made with the Ontario shore at the Chats Falls.

26/11/1914 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

Operations were suspended last week on the line of the Canadian Northern railway, along the front of the county, and about 150 navvies were discharged. The rails are now laid from Pembroke to the Chats rapids, where bridge construction is not yet completed.

04/12/1914 Perth Courier Beachburg Perth

Turntable Razed

After standing fifty-six years the turntable in the railway yard in Perth has been taken away, and the hollow site filled up. A gang of workmen finished the job Wednesday. The cause of its removal was on account of it being now too small to hold an engine and tender of the size these are made now. To meet the want of this, the Y at Glen Tay will be used; and every night on the arrival of the Perth local the engine will be run up to Glen Tay and reversed there, and then run back to Perth. This turntable was built in year 1858 by the late Hugh Ryan Company, which constructed the then Perth branch. The first train over our branch was run on January 11th, 1858 (sic) and the first through train between this town and Brockville on January 26th, same year.

23/04/1915 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg Pembroke

The building of the C.N.R. bridge across the Muskrat at Pembroke has been completed and the steel laid so that the entire line is now linked up between North Bay and Ottawa and only the ballasting remains to get the road in readiness for operation. The Observer says that nearly all of the ballasting has been done between Pembroke and North Bay and the "lift" gang will put on the finishing touches this spring. Work on the completion of the line is now starting in earnest and there seems no doubt that a regular passenger service between North Bay and Ottawa will be established this summer. Trains are passing up and down from Pembroke west now.

16/07/1915 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg Westmeath water

Beachburg notes. As one drives up the Pembroke road one's eyes are gladdened by the sight of the new C.N.R. station which is being built about seven miles above Beachburg, on the farm of Mr. Sam Drew, and which we believe is to be known as Westmeath station. The large water tank here is almost completed, and we have been informed, though not officially, that a large gang of carpenters and builders were to be put to work this week on our station. -- We will be delighted to welcome our fair visitors this year via C.N.R. Beachburg station.

26/08/1915 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

Most of the stations along the line of the C.N. Railway between Pembroke and Ottawa, are well advanced towards completion.

16/09/1915 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

It is expected that through traffic will commence on the Canadian Northern Railway next month. It is announced that the main line is now completed.

21/10/1915 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

The first "official" train of the Canadian Northern Railway - Canada's third transcontinental steel highway - passed over that portion of the line which passes through Pontiac about three o'clock on Wednesday morning last. It was a special train, containing officials of the Company, Members of Parliament, pressmen, and other prominent citizens, and was designed to mark the completion of a great project, which must eventually figure largely in the future commercial progress and development of the country. It has not yet been announced when regular service is to be inaugurated in the new line but it goes without saying the people living along the front of the county will hail the time with pleasure and satisfaction.

16/12/1915 Renfrew Mercury Beachburg Foresters Falls

Long piece - still waiting for trains to start running.

19/02/1916 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg

"Poincaire" is the name of the C.N.R. station down at Clarendon Front, and some people are kicking and wanting to know why it has been so named. Well, we can't furnish the information, and can only remark that it might have been called after a person of much less importance. Poincaire, as the president of the French nation is figuring pretty largely in the limelight just now,

15/06/1916 The Equity, Shawville Beachburg Norway Bay

The first C.N.R. summer special brought a goodly number of people to Norway Bay on Saturday.

18/01/1918 Arnprior Watchman Beachburg Woodlawn

An agent and operator are now in charge of the new Canadian Northern railway station at Woodlawn which makes it more convenient for residents of that district.

SECTION MAN HIT BY A C.N.R. TRAIN

Fred Nedon, Fitzroy Harbor, a section man in the employe of the C. N. R., was. brought to St. Luke's hospital yesterday afternoon. He was struck by a train near Rideau Junction and escaped with only severe bruises on his head. Woodburn's ambulance was called and he was taken to St. Luke's hospital, where last night his condition was not considered series.

03/09/1921 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**South March*

SECTION FOREMAN DIES OF INJURIES

Jacques Parisien, C.N.R. section foreman, of South March. Ont., who was badly injured when the gasoline rail car on which he was-riding was hit by a passenger train, died Inst night at the Ottawa General hospital, Water street. The body was removed to Woodburn's Funeral Home, McLeod street, where Coroner Craig had decided to open an inquest this morning at nine o'clock. As yet no funeral arrangements have been made.

When the late Mr. Parisien received his injuries yesterday morning he was attempting to get the motor car he was riding off the rails instead of seeking safety for himself, after he had sighted an approaching passenger train. At the time he was travelling across a trestle bridge.

He did not get the machine clear of the rails before the train was upon him and he was struck by the engine and thrown from the trestle. The train was brought to a stop and members of the crew picked up the injured man. He was found to be unconscious, so he was taken on the train and brought to the city. The train was met by Woodburn's ambulance, and the injured man was taken to the Ottawa General hospital, Water street. Here he was put under the care of Dr. Woods, who found him to be suffering from internal injuries and from a fractured thigh, arm and ribs. The deceased was married and his widow and family reside at South March. Some brothers reside at Orleans, Ont..

26/10/1921 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**South March*

Fell From Train.

While the Canadian National train No. 2, from the west, was running near South March about six o'clock this morning the flagman at the rear, Arthur Barnes, 71 Shuter street, Toronto, lost his balance and fell off. The man was not missed until the train entered the Union station. Search was then made back along the line and the unconscious man was found lying by the track. Woodburn's ambulance was summoned and the injured man taken to St. Luke's hospital where he recovered consciousness. He was severely cut about the head and suffering from shock but is reported to be in no danger.

19/01/1924 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

TEDIUM OF JOURNEY RELIEVED BY RADIO

Trans-Canada Passengers on C.N.R. Express Enjoyment. (Special to The Citizen.) WINNIPEG, Jan. 18. Trans-Canada passengers arriving here tonight ott the first train coming west on the C. N. R. equipped with radio receiving apparatus expressed their keen enjoyment of the entertainment provided by radio on the long Journey. Concerts from Pittsburg. Chicago, Kansas City and many other points were heard with re-martfable clearness.

29/01/1924 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Ottawa*

BABY BORN ON TRAIN DOING FAIRLY WELL

Baby Skehan, the little mite of humanity who arrived on Sunday afternoon while its parents were journeying on the Continental Limited, No. 2 of the C. N. R., from their home in the Canadian West to Ottawa, was reported this morning to be doing fairly well at St. Luke's hospital. The little baby girl was conveyed with its mother by Woodburn's ambulance, on arrival at the Union Station. Mrs. Skehan was also said to be getting along splendidly.

The baby was born while the train was speeding along the stretch of the Vancouver to Montreal run between Smith's Falls and Ottawa. There was no doctor on the train, but a French lady volunteered to act as nurse and cared for the mother and child until arrival at Ottawa.

Mr. and Mr. E. Skehan were coming to Ottawa to visit Mr. Skehan' motherr .Mrs. J. Skehan. who lives at 184 Isabella street, and word was dispatched from the train to have it met by an ambulance.

28/06/1924 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Norway Bay*

CNR had a huge picnic for its Ottawa area employees at Norway Bay. First train was to leave Ottawa at 0800 with 14 cars handling 1200 people; then at 1230, there would be another train of 15 cars for 1700 people.

01/08/1924 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Pembroke*

A note that the CNR's battery-operator passenger car running to Pembroke from Ottawa would now leave Ottawa at 740am instead of 710am, meaning only a 30 minute turnaround at Pembroke before returning to Ottawa .

C.N.R WESTBOUND LIMITED DERAILED AT WOODLAWN
ENGINE AND SEVEN CARS JUMP RAILS.

ENGR.GAUVREAU AND FIREMAN DEAVEY ARE HURT; NO PASSENGERS INJURED

Accident Occurred at Point about twenty-eight miles West of Ottawa Shortly Before three o'clock this Morning. Official Statement on Derailment Issued at Toronto. Train Detoured to Ottawa, Where It Arrived About Eleven O'clock. Ottawa Members of Engine Crew Only Ones Hurt in Mishap.

The C.N.R. No. 1 train, westbound from Montreal to Vancouver, was derailed at 2.45 a.m. today one mile west of Woodlawn, and about 28 miles west of Ottawa.

No passengers are reported as hurt but Engineer Alec Gauvreau and Fireman Deavey of Ottawa were injured slightly, There were about 100 passengers aboard. The engine and two baggage cars immediately behind it left the tracks but as, at this point, the tracks are nearly level, the results were not so serious as they might have been had the line been on an embankment.

The train left Ottawa at 1.35 a.m. It was brought back to Ottawa during the morning, arriving shortly after 11 a.m., with a new engine, and re-despatched over the Renfrew sub-division to Pembroke owing to the blockade at Woodlawn.

The cause of the derailment was a broken rail. The accident happened on the Capreol division which starts at Rideau Junction and runs west to Capreol.

Woodlawn is in Torbolton township and is the first station this side of Fitzroy Harbor.

Engineer's Wrists Injured.

The accident happened about a mile west of Woodlawn, when the train was travelling at its average speed of about 33 miles per hour. The cause of the accident is supposed to have been a broken rail. The engine and one baggage car turned completely over. Another baggage car and three passenger cars left the track but did not turn over. The engineer, Alex Gauvreau, of Henderson avenue, Ottawa, had both wrists injured but was able to walk and was taken to hospital on arrival here, for treatment.

Fireman Howard Deavey, Preston street, Ottawa, was shaken up but uninjured.

Cliff Cook, the conductor, was also uninjured.

Of the passengers and the express men, none were injured, but many were somewhat shaken up.

Broken Rail the Cause.

A broken rail on a curve resulted in the engine, tender, express car, baggage car and five following passenger coaches leaving the tracks. The engine, tender and express car turned over just as the train stopped, the other cars remaining standing upright on the road bed. None of the passengers were hurt, some of them did not even know that an accident had happened. On word of the accident reaching Ottawa a special, consisting of a freight engine and some passenger cars, was despatched from here. The special left at 6 a.m. and reached Woodlawn about 7 a.m. The whole of the passengers were transferred to the special.

They left again at 11.30 a.m. on a new train, and it was stated that the line would be cleared by 2 p.m.

The conductor of the wrecked train was Cliff Cook, who was uninjured. J. Perry of Montreal, the express man, was shaken somewhat.

None of the sleeping cars or the dining car left the track. There being a slight drop in the embankment of about five feet caused the engine, tender and express car to turn over, otherwise they, too, would have remained upright. The cars are not damaged.

Two hours or so previously an eastbound freight train passed over the same track all right and reached Ottawa safely at 1 a.m.

THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT. TORONTO, Dec- 24. When Canadian National Railway train No. 1. bound from Montreal to Vancouver was derailed at Woodlawn, 28 miles west of Ottawa, at 2.55 this morning, Engineer Gauvreau and Fireman Deavey, of Ottawa, were slightly hurt but no passenger were injured. The engine and tender and seven cars left the rails, all remaining upright with the exception of the engine and the express car. Sleeping, dining and observation cars were taken back to the Ottawa terminal, where the train was detoured via Renfrew sub-division and North Bay for the West.

An official statement regarding the accident was given out here today by C. G. Bowker, general manager of the central region of the railway.

The statement is as follows:

"Train No. 1, operating between Montreal and Vancouver, was derailed at Woodlawn, a point 28 miles west of Ottawa, at 2.55 this morning. The engine and tender and seven cars left the rails. All remained upright with the exception of the engine and express car. The sleeping cars did not leave the rails and no passengers were injured. Two of the train crew were slightly hurt. Engineer Gauvreau and Fireman Deavey, of Ottawa, sustained strained wrists. The cause of the derailment was a broken rail. A special coach train sent from Ottawa left Woodlawn at 9.53 this morning with the sleeping cars and dining and observation coaches, returning to Ottawa terminal, where the train was detoured via Renfrew division and North Bay for the West."

CAUSE OF WRECK AT WOODLAWN

C. N. R. Engineer Gauvreau and Fireman Deevey, of Ottawa, Only Ones Injured.

ENGINE AND SEVEN CARS BUMP ALONG THE RAILS

Passengers On C N. R. Train for West Brought Back To Ottawa.

The engine, tender and express car of Canadian National Railway Montreal - Vancouver train No. 1, proceeding westward and passing through Ottawa at 1.35 o'clock this morning, were derailed and toppled into the ditch a short distance beyond Woodlawn, Ont., 28 miles west of Ottawa, at 2.45 a.m. A broken rail was the cause of the derailment. The engine crew consisting of Engineer Alexandre Gauvreau and Fireman Howard, Deevey, both of Ottawa, had a most fortunate escape from death. Engineer Gauvreau fractured both wrists, and Fireman Deevey was shaken up. Both jumped from the cab. None of the 125 passengers were injured. The accident occurred in the-Capreol division.

Crew Works Quickly.

The scene of the accident was one-half mile west of Woodlawn, and a few miles west of Fitzroy Harbor, and two miles south of the Ottawa river. Leaving Ottawa the train proceeded westerly by way of Rideau Junction. Beyond Fitzroy Harbor the line enters Quebec province, passes close to Norway Bay, and again enters Ontario over a bridge near Roche Fendue Rapids on the Ottawa river. Woodlawn is in Torbolton township at the extreme northwesterly point of Carleton County.

That the derailment was not attended by more serious consequences was due largely to the quick action of the engine crew.

Ran Along Ties

As soon as Engineer Gauvreau and Fireman Deevey noticed that something was going wrong, they quickly applied the emergency brakes. The engine, tender, express car and six coaches ran along the ties a distance of about 450 feet after jumping the track. Just as the engine was coming to stop, it toppled over along with the tender and express car. The coaches remained upright, while the sleeping cars did not leave the rails. Although the track was torn up for a distance of about five rail lengths many passengers were not even aware that an accident had occurred.

Brought Back to Ottawa.

Train No. 1, consisting of 12 coaches, was unable to proceed immediately on its journey. A special coach train sent out from Ottawa to the scene of the accident left Woodlawn at 9.53 a.m. for Union Station, with the sleeping, dining and observation cars in two (sic tow?). On reaching Ottawa, at 11 a.m., another engine, tender and express car were attached to the transcontinental train, a fresh engine crew placed in charge, and the train started on its journey, being re-routed via Renfrew subdivision and North Bay.

Fractured Two Arms.

Immediately on the arrival of the special train in Ottawa, Engineer Gauvreau was taken in a waiting ambulance to St. Luke's hospital. An X-Ray examination revealed that he had suffered a fracture of both arms near the wrists. Dr. George S. McCarthy, 110 Lisgar street, who is attending the injured man, said his wrists were much swollen.

It was at first thought that Engineer Gauvreau had only been slightly injured. He broke his wrists in landing heavily on the roadbed when he jumped from the engine cab just as the engine toppled over. Fireman Deevey, who also jumped at the last moment, slightly injured his right hand.

Crew Came From Ottawa.

The fact that the engine had been brought to an almost complete stop before it toppled over the embankment was responsible for the absence of casualties. The train was travelling at an average speed of about 33 miles an hour at the time of the derailment.

The other members of the train crew were Conductor Clifford Cook, of Ottawa; Brakemen A. McDonald, also of Ottawa, and J. O'Connell, 475 Nelson street, and Baggage man Robt C. Butler, 3 Dorothy Avenue. Baggage man Butler was not injured. They all proceeded west with the train when the journey was resumed. A wrecking and repair crew was quickly despatched to the scene of the accident, and it was stated officially that the damaged road bed would be repaired and the torn rails replaced in time for regular traffic to be resumed over the road by four o'clock this afternoon.

The Official Report.

Mr. C. O. Bowker, General Manager Canadian National Railways issued the following statement from Regional headquarters this morning: "Train No. 1, operating between Montreal and Vancouver, was derailed at Woodlawn, a point 28 miles west of Ottawa, at 2.55 o'clock this morning. The engine and tender and seven cars left the rails. All remained upright with the exception of the engine and express car. The sleeping cars did not leave the rails. No passengers were hurt, and only two of the train crew were slightly hurt.

"Engineer Gauvreau and Fireman Deevey, of Ottawa, sustained slight bruises. The cause of the derailment was a broken rail. A special coach train was sent from Ottawa, and left Woodlawn at 9.55 this morning with the sleeping cars, diner and observation car and other coaches, returning to Ottawa terminal, where train was detoured via Renfrew sub-division and North Bay for the west".

DRIVER KILLED WHEN HIS CAR HIT BY TRAIN

Alexander Krantzberg Meets Instant Death at Railway Crossing Near Bell's Corners. Gas Tank Explodes,

REPORT WHISTLE AND BELL BOTH SOUNDING

Inquest Opened. Deceased Had Been In This Country Only Three Months.

When the auto which he was driving was struck by C.N.R. Pembroke-Ottawa train No. 120 at the railway crossing on the Richmond road near Bell's Corners yesterday morning, Alexander Krantzberg, aged 30 years, of 253 York street, was instantly killed.

Following the collision the motor car took fire and before the body had been extricated from the wreckage it was badly burned. Mr. Krantzberg was a clothing peddler, and about ten o'clock left Ottawa in a Ford sedan en route for points west of the city. The smash occurred at the C.N.R. crossing just west of the Bell's Corners station, and about half a mile north of Bell's Corners village. Approaching the crossing, the motor car driven by Krantzberg was travelling about twenty miles per hour, and the train, which was on its way to Ottawa, had a speed of about 25 miles per hour. In addition to the locomotive the train was made up of three passenger coaches and a baggage car. Mr. R. K. Fair, 17 Robinson avenue, was engineer on the train and Mr. Seaton conductor.

Car Takes Fire.

The force of the collision caused the gasoline tank of the auto to explode. This caused the remains of the car, which with the body of Mr. Krantzberg was hurled into the ditch, to take fire. The train was brought to a stop in about 400 feet following the accident, and passengers and train crew hurried back to the wrecked auto, and although the fire was speedily extinguished the clothing was burned from the body which was also badly scorched. Mr. Krantzberg was dead and a large wound on his head indicated that he had been killed instantly and did not die from the burns which followed. Part of the auto was carried on the front of the locomotive.

Whistle and Bell Sounded.

Matthias Boisvenue, who had been working for W. H. Faulkner, had just passed over the railway crossing a few minutes before and met the motor car. He said that he heard the bell of the engine ringing and the whistle blowing for the crossing.

"When I noticed the speed with which the ill-fated motor car was approaching the railway crossing, with a train about to pass," said Mr. Boisvenue, "the thought struck me that it was travelling too fast for safety. I turned around just in time to see the smash and to witness the small auto being hurled off the road by the passing train." Mr. Boisvenue was one of the first ones to reach the unfortunate man after the car had been struck.

The body of Krantzberg was placed on board the train and was brought to the city and removed to Burney & Son's undertaking parlor. Coroner J. E. Craig, M.D., opened an inquest yesterday afternoon and after the usual formalities adjourned the hearing until Monday evening next at the courthouse.

There is no automatic warning bell on this crossing, but the view is clear from both sides. Mr. Boisvenue was only thirty or forty feet from the crossing when the accident took place.

Canadian National Railway officials are at a loss to understand how the motorist failed to be acquainted of the train's approach. The train crew stated that the whistle had been blown for the crossing and in fact was still blowing when the automobile was struck.

No blame attached for fatal accident

Verdict given on death of Alexander Krantzberg.

A verdict of accidental death with no blame attached to anyone, last night was returned by a coroner's jury at the courthouse which inquired into the death of the late Alexander Krantzberg, aged 30 years, of 253 York Street, who was killed when a Pembroke-Ottawa C.N.R. train struck his motor car on a level crossing on the Richmond Road, near Bells Corners, on the morning of August 2nd.

The evidence produced by various witnesses showed that the motor car had been struck at the crossing, part of it had been carried some distance, and the remains of it took fire. Members of the train crew all testified that the engine bell had been ringing and the whistle had been blowing when the train approached the crossing and before the smash took place.

Among the witnesses were engineer J. G. Loney, fireman P. H. Garvey, conductor A. A. Seaton, and Mr. Matthias Boisvenue, who witnessed the accident. Dr. J. E. Craig, coroner, presided. Mr. J. A. Ritchie, K.C., acted for the crown and Mr. J. J. O'Meara, of the firm of O'Meara and McHugh, appeared for the relatives of the deceased.

27/10/1926 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Alice*

Passenger Coaches derailed near Alice

Train Leaving Ottawa at 1.35 a.m. Meets Accident

Passengers on No. 1 C.N.R. train were slightly shocked when three of the coaches were derailed near Alice, Ont., at an early hour this morning. No one was injured and the delay to the passengers lasted only ten minutes, those on the derailed cars being transferred to other coaches. The three cars were re-railed several hours later.

No. 1 leaves Ottawa for the west at 1.35 in the morning. It left as usual today and had reached Alice, 96 miles west of the city, when the accident happened. No cause for the derailment was given.

29/10/1926 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg*

Queen Marie of Rumania celebrated her 51st birthday today on her special train bound from Ottawa to Winnipeg. More. From Winnipeg she went into the USA.

07/06/1927 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Bells Corners*

FREIGHT CARS OFF TRACK

Three box cars of C.N.R. freight train left the tracks near Bell's Corners Sunday evening, when the front trunks of one of the cars bounced from the rails to the roadbed. No one was hurt in the accident, but considerable damage resulted to the contents of the cars and the roadbed and track.

07/06/1927 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Bells Corners*

Freight Cars Go Into Ditch C.N.R. Main Line

Traffic East of Bells Corners Tied Up, and Road Bed Severely Damaged.

Flour, bran and rolled oats were scattered around a considerable area when three cars of an eastbound freight train left the rails a half mile east of Bell's Corners on the C.N.R. main line at 10 o'clock Sunday night. Traffic on the line was tied up for several hours, but the damage done to the rails was repaired early yesterday morning, and regular service along the line restored during the day.

No one was injured when the cars, which were near the rear of the train, left the track, plunged into a ditch, and overturned, but one of the cars was badly smashed.

Go Down Embankment

The train was travelling at a moderate speed, it is said, when a wheel or truck on the eighth car from the end of the train broke, and the car and the two following were thrown from the tracks, plunged down a five foot embankment, capsizing as they did so, and coming to a rest some distance from the rails. One car, containing flour and bran was completely wrecked. The other two cars, one a refrigerator car full of meat and the other with a load of rolled oats, upset, and came to a rest upside down in the bottom of the ditch. The roadbed was torn up for some distance, but the five last cars of the train did not leave the bed.

Repair work was commenced immediately, but the tracks were still tied up early Monday morning, and the eastbound transcontinental was brought into the city over the old Grand Trunk line by way of Carp, it is understood, from residents of the Bell's Corners vicinity. No report of the accident could be obtained from the railway officials.

Set Cars Afire

Two of the cars were set afire last night by railway men, as it was found to be impossible to salvage the contents of the cars in the position in which they were, it is said. A large number of residents of the vicinity visited the scene of the derailment during the day, and were present when the cars were burned.

25/11/1927 *Chronicle Telegraph, Queb* *Beachburg**Kathmore*

Pembroke Ont. Nov.25; Three men were injured, one critically in a head-on collision between a government forestry railway car and a section men's motor railway car on the Canadian National Railway near Kathmore, 30 miles west of here yesterday. A special train was dispatched from here and brought the injured men back to hospital. The injured are H. Jenks, Pembroke, forestry car mechanic in critical condition; George Calder, Kathmore, section man, seriously hurt; Norman Bennet, Kathmore section hand, injured about the head.

18/07/1929 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Billings Bridge*

Find Man's Death Was Accidental

Coroner's Jury Decides Circus Train Killed Hasbrook Smith of Alfred.

The question of determining which of three train struck and inflicted fatal injuries to Hasbrook Smith, an Alfred, Ont., man who was found dead on the track of the Canadian National Railways about 100 yards west of the overhead crossing on the Metcalfe road at Billings Bridge, was left to a jury inquiring into the man's death last night.

The inquest was held in the County Court House, and was presided over by Dr. J. E. Craig, coroner, and witnesses were members of the train crew that found the body on the railway embankment.

Two trains passed the point where the body was found before a member of the train crew of the last train noticed him lying there and pulled the train to a standstill. The previous trains were the Ottawa-Toronto express, and extra train number 3489. The last train was one conveying a circus from Ottawa to Belleville. Following the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death. Smith being struck by the circus train while trespassing on a railway track. Members of the train crew that gave evidence were Alexander Gauvreau, H. J. Benson, J. McKenzie, F. Sculland, and M. Kennedy.

Big Strides in Power Project at Chats Falls.

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 Today all is changed. It's now "a quaint little tentish town." and the vast transformation in so short a time by the contractors, Messrs. Morrow & Beatty, Limited, is evidence of what experience, organization and modern equipment can accomplish. Four hundred men are now at work; a right-of-way has been cut through the woods to the main line of the C.N.R. on the Ontario side and today steel is laid as far as the Quebec boundary; huge cranes upoad the great pieces of British Columbia fir and cedar; carloads of supplies for the work; the cookeries and the sleeping quarters were hauled in; tons of rock have been blasted and removed for the right-of-way, then came the grading gang and immediately following them were the men of steel. Everything suggests highly efficient organization. The crib work of the railway is to be utilized in part as the coffer dam and that structure has already been constructed for a length of several hundreds of yards, extending almost to Mohr's island which is the center of the river and will ultimately be the center of the work. With the completion of the coffer dam, construction of the permanent concrete dam nearly three miles in length, and the power house, will be commenced. Even for an organization as large as Messrs. Morrow and Beatty. It is not anticipated that their work can be completed much sooner than three years

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 property damage is not anticipated except on the right-of-way of the C.N.R. line on the Ontario side; whether the railway will be reconstructed to curve away from the lake or a retaining wall built for a considerable distance has not yet been decided; in any case the difficulty occasioned by higher water levels will not be insurmountable and the line of railway appears to be the only place where damage could be attributed to these higher levels.

The abutments for two bridges on the island are ready for the steel, one with a length of eighty feet and the other one hundred feet, and when these superstructures are completed the last of the railway tracks will be laid and the contractors will operate their own rolling stock; from that time the work will proceed even more rapidly than has been the case up to the present.

14/04/1930 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Alice*

Minister is dead after being hit on C.N.R. Crossing

Alone in his car, 9 miles from Pembroke, Mr. Jannau fails to see freight train.

Pembroke, April 13th - while pursuing the duties of his ministry this afternoon, death came in tragic form to Rev. Mr. Jannau, who was driving from Black Bay, where he resided, about eight miles from Pembroke, to conduct a service at his Alice charge. The fatality occurred at what is known as Febler's Crossing, about a mile east of Alice station, and about nine miles distance from Pembroke. Approaching the crossing that is quite a heavy grade and a sharp curve, making it practically impossible to see a train coming through the rock cut west of the crossing. Rev. Mr. Jannau reached the crossing about 2.40 p.m. and evidently did not hear a freight train coming eastward.

Engine Hits Car.

The engine hit the rear end of his car and the impact was so great the minister, who was alone in the sedan, was hurled through the windshield and his head struck a fence post, five or six feet away, resulting in severe fractures of the skull.

The train was stopped and the unfortunate man was picked up by the crew and taken to Pembroke and removed to the Cottage Hospital. A physician was on hand to attend to him, but his injuries were such that nothing could be done and he died about 15 minutes after entering the hospital without regaining consciousness.

28/02/1931 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Beachburg*

BEACHBURG STATION DESTROYED BY FIRE
 Agent and family Absent as Flames Sweep Structure

Flames Sweep Structure. Special to The Journal PEMBROKE. Ont.

The CNR station at Beachburg was destroyed tonight by fire which broke out about 10:15 pm from a cause so far unknown. The station agent, Mr. Boyce, and his family, who resided in the upstairs portion of the building, were all absent from home at the time and very little of their household effects were saved, but Mr. Boyce, who arrived on the scene after the alarm was given, saved the station books and records. The building was a frame structure and most of the contents are a total loss. The village is without fire protection and though the citizens made every effort possible they were unable to stop the progress of the flame which which are believed to have originated in the waiting room.

01/08/1931 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Fitzroy*

Badly Scalded In Derailment

Toronto Man in Water Street Hospital in Critical Condition.

James Henderson, aged 38, of Toronto, was seriously scalded yesterday at Fitzroy Harbor when the locomotive train of which he was in charge was derailed: Mr. Henderson is an employe of Beatty and Morrow, who are working on the Chat Falls construction work, and was operating one of the trains used in the work when the accident occurred. Henderson was deluged with scalding steam. Dr. W. R. Dowd and Dr. H. O. Law, camp doctors, attended the injured man but it was necessary to have him sent to Ottawa late last night.

He arrived in the city about five o'clock this morning and was immediately rushed, to the Ottawa General Hospital in the ambulance of Veitch and Son. 453 Parkdale avenue. He is being attended by Dr. J. Pritchard, and at a late hour this morning his condition was reported to be critical.

21/12/1931 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Fitzroy Harbor*

Crushed by Crane Worker is Killed At Fitzroy Harbor

Thomas Wheeley, 40, Dies instantly when Trapped Between Machine and Log.

When his head was caught between a projecting log on a flat-car and a steam crane Thomas Wheeley, 40 years old of Fitzroy Harbor, and an employe of the firm of Morrow and Beatty at the Chats Falls development works on the Ottawa river, was instantly killed at 10.30 o'clock on Saturday morning.

He was assisting Euclid Gaudet, another employe of the firm, who was handling a crane. The machinery was being moved under its own power to a flat car where it was to unload lumber. In accordance with his duty Gaudet was reaching down with his foot to couple the crane to the flat-car when, it was stated, Wheeley jumped to between the two pieces of rolling stock to couple them with his hands. His head was caught by the projecting lumber and crushed against the aid of the crane. Rev. Fether Bambrick administered the last rites of the church.

Dr. A. Bondfield, camp physician, was called at once, but found that death was instantaneous. Dr. Richard Dowd, the company doctor in the district, was also notified and informed Dr. A. B. Hyndman, at Carp, coroner for the district. Dr. Hyndman opened an inquest on Saturday at the works and adjourned the hearing until Tuesday evening when evidence will be taken at Fitzroy.

The body was taken to Arnprior after the accident and was sent on Sunday to Chapeau, Quebec where interment will take place.

Thomas Wheeley was born at Chichester, Pontiac County, 40 years ago, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Wheeley. He had been working for the Morrow and Beatty construction firm for the past two years and was popular with all who knew him. He was a member of the K. of C.

Mr. Wheeley is survived by his widow, formerly Rose Daniel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Daniel, of Chapeau, Quebec, three children of tender years; three brothers, William, Edward and Charles, a sister, Abbie and two half-sisters, Gertrude and Bertha.

Caught in switch narrowly escapes oncoming train
 Thrown from motor when hit by boxcar Pembroke man is but little injured.

Pembroke, Ont., May 16 - another level crossing fatality was narrowly averted at the C.N.R. Mary Street crossing here shortly after six o'clock this evening, when Edward Barrett, returning home from work in his car, was struck on the crossing and had a narrow escape from Death. Way freight engine No. 2631, in charge of Engineer George E. Pumble, 642 Somerset Street, Ottawa, and Fireman Farrar Vickers, also of Ottawa, was shunting in the yard, and as Barrett approach the crossing four cars will being shunted northward towards the bridge. It is believed Barrett mistook a signal given by Brakeman Swinwood, of 105 Concord Street, Ottawa, and thought he could make the crossing ahead of the train. The box car hit the automobile broadside and Barrett was thrown out, landing on the track at a switch, his left knee being caught firmly in the "frog." The engineer brought the train to a halt in a distance of 18 feet, and the motor car, pushed ahead, was within five feet of Barrett when the train was stopped. It was necessary to force the switch open to release the injured man, who suffered some very severe cuts to his left leg, as well as other minor cuts and bruises. He was hurried to the General Hospital, where his injuries were given attention, and he is now fairly comfortable. The motor car was completely wrecked.

16/07/1934 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Ottawa*

Circus Train Late But Show Staged With Little Delay

Derailement Holds Up Al G. Barnes' Cars - Evening Performance Starts at 8 O'clock.

All roads led to the Preston and Somerset west corner from 10 o'clock this morning until late this afternoon as the Al. G. Barnes circus pulled into town and scores of circus hands worked like lightning unloading the long train-load of animals and putting up "The Big Top"

Due to a derailment of one of the cars at Brant[sic] Ont. early this morning, the circus train was held up for many hours and finally shunted into the siding between Somerset street bridge and the Gladstone avenue crossing at five minutes to twelve. Owing to the unexpected delay the afternoon show opened at three o'clock. The evening show will start promptly at eight o'clock.

Watched Show Unloading

As the big train-load train-load of orange-colored cars slid to a stop thousands of children, many accompanied by parents and older brothers and sisters, raced across the open field to get a glimpse of the arriving show. Crews of colored circus hands, teeth gleaming in the sunlight leaped off the cars and under the direction of managers staked out the grounds for the tents and animal cages. First to disembark was the herd of 16 huge elephants, and their dignified descent from the car doors to the ground evoked a murmur of admiration and amazement from the waiting crowd. The moment was not without incident. As the enormous beasts with swinging trunks, flapping ears, gleaming tusks and foreheads a yard wide came down at the siding, several young children took fright. While some of the braver spirits among the boys climbed on top of the cars and reached down to touch the elephants' backs, several younger boys and girls screamed with fright and raced away in the opposite direction, watching the spectacle from afar.

Big Top Erected Quickly.

With fascinating speed and accuracy, the circus workers erected their canvas and ranged the animals in their places. At the eastern extremity of the grounds was a long line of peanut wagons and lines of refreshment booths with barkers crying their wares.

In the 18 nationalities represented among the 400 Barnes circus performers tradition again is strong Arabians for acrobats. Japanese for equilibrists, English folk for riders and aerialists for within the circus is the specialization of the expert. Circus life they say is "in the blood," even for generation to generation.

There is for example. Mrs Elizabeth Hanneford. still active in the ring at the age of 64, the daughter and granddaughter of circus performers. Her son "Poodles" is with the Barnes show as its star riding clown. His wife Grace, is an equestrienne, and their daughter also Grace, is likewise in the ring. In addition to this example of three generations with one show. Mrs Hanneford's daughter. Elizabeth equestrienne, is the wife of Ernie Clarkonion. aerialist and their daughter Ernestine, has followed her father on the "flying trapeze."

06/09/1934 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg*

In death escape on level crossing

Farmer painfully hurt, son escape's as train crashes car.

Pembroke, Ont., Sept. 6. - Henry Martin, aged 60, a famer living near Beachburg, received painful injuries to his face and hands and was badly shaken up, when a motor car he was driving was struck by a Canadian National work-train near Beachburg at nine o'clock this morning. His son, Alan Martin, who was driving with him, escaped unhurt.

The accident happened on the crossing near the village which leads into the farm of Thomas Scott. The train was backing up slowly and was unnoticed by Mr. Martin, whose car was struck broadside and shoved 30 yards along the track. The car was badly damaged.

Mr Martin's face and hands were cut by flying glass, but after treatment by Dr. L. Barries he was able to go home.

27/04/1935 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Beachburg*

If we are to celebrate Beachburg's centenary with all the eclat and unction the fine old pioneer settlement deserves, we simply must have a new railway station at that spot in the sun.

Dr. Cotnam represents Beachburg and all the rest of North Renfrew in the House of Commons and he didn't equivocate at all when he told Parliament a few days ago that a railway coach by any other name is still just a railway coach and not by any stretch of the imagination can you make a railway depot put of it. Yet that's the kind of thing Beachburg has had to look at ever since the railway station there was destroyed by fire in 1931.

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 what a monstrosity 'twould be to find the proud name "Beachburg" tacked on to the side of an old drab and obsolete train coach in a county that gave to Canada the present minister of railways.

21/06/1937 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

New warning signs at the Canadian National Railway bridge over the Prescott highway about six miles from Ottawa have been erected by the Department of Highways of Ontario. The highway curves sharply under the bridge and is a blind turn. Suitable black and white checkerboard signs, with red reflectors have been placed at both ends of the curve. The word "subway" is painted on the signs.

06/01/1938 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Mr. Ryan, his father, is employed as a trainman at Capreol in Northern Ontario. News reached him Tuesday that his son was very low. The only train to Ottawa was a freight train so he came on that and arrived at the hospital a few hours before his son passed away.

12/03/1938 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Kinburn*

Thomas F. Olmsted, 438 Parkdale avenue, brakeman on the C.N.R. suffered painful injuries yesterday morning at Kinburn when he was accidentally knocked from a train en route to Pembroke. Details of the accident were not available, but it is understood that in some way Mr. Olmsted was knocked from the rear carriage by a small truck at the station. Dr. W. R. Dowd of Kinburn was called and ordered his removal to hospital. Later, Mr. Olmsted was able to return to his house.

Train Hits Wrecked Handcar Youth Is Charged
Transcontinental Stays on Rails but Track Torn Up.

Passengers aboard the fast east-bound Canadian National Railways transcontinental express No. 2, had a close call, and considerable property damage was caused, when the flyer crashed into wreckage of a handcar on the main line east of Bell's Corners, early on the morning of Tuesday, it was revealed here late Friday night by railway authorities with the arrest of a youth they charge was responsible for the near-derailment.

Travelling towards Ottawa through dense fog, at 5.30 a.m. on Tuesday, the Vancouver train threw the obstruction a considerable distance, causing the track to be torn up for nearly 200 yards, and doing damage to the locomotive. Fortunately the train did not leave the tracks.

Kenneth Edingsborough, 22, farm hand employed four miles east of Bell's Corners, was arrested at 10.15 p.m. on Friday by Chief Investigator B.B. Harris, of C.N.R. police, Ottawa, and booked at Ottawa police station later.

He is appearing in Carleton County court next week on a charge of placing an obstruction on the railway in such a way as to cause damage to property and possible loss of life. He will also be charged with breaking into a railway section carhouse, and stealing a motor-propelled handcar, which was destroyed. Edingsborough is alleged to have told police he had attended a dance at Bells Corners on the night of Monday, and about two o'clock in the morning started to walk eastward along the tracks towards his employer's farm. It is alleged that Edingsborough knew where the motor-propelled hand-car, which is valued at \$500, and contains, in addition, valuable tools and equipment, was stored.

Railway police charge the farm hand broke into the storehouse and pushed the handcar on to the tracks. It was urged along the rails, in an easterly direction, for some distance. About one mile east of the shack, police say, an attempt was made to start it with match or some other light. Flames caught around the carburetor, and in a few minutes the handcar was blazing. The vehicle was damaged beyond repair.

Investigator Harris stated, after the fire the handcar had been left on the tracks. It was, too heavy to remove again.

The young farm worker is a native of London, England. He came to Canada about eight years ago.

02/05/1938 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

Bells Corners

Admits Handcar Theft And Is Remanded

Kenneth Edinsborough, 22, of City View, pleaded guilty in County Magistrates Court this morning on two charges arising out of a near-derailment of the C.N.R. Transcontinental Express at Bells Corners last Tuesday.

Edinsborough admitted stealing the handcar from the roundhouse [sic] and with placing an obstruction across the tracks in such a way as to endanger the lives of the people in the flyer.

He was remanded until next Monday by Magistrate Clayton.

Three Men Killed, Six Injured In Freight Train Wreck Near Norway Bay

Bodies of Two Unidentified Young Men Are Taken From Debris - Third Dies in Hull Hospital

Toll of three dead and at least six injured was taken in a train wreck between Quyon and Norway Bay on Sunday afternoon, when a Canadian National freight train of 19 heavily-loaded cars was derailed and jumped the track to crash into a swamp along the right-of-way. Cause of the derailment is said to have been a loosened wheel which wrenched the train to one side and precipitated the wreck.

Second Body Found Under Car

When searchers resumed their work this morning a body of an unidentified man was discovered beneath a tank car, crushed down into the swamp, and it is feared that other victims will be found in the course of the day. All dead and injured were described by railway authorities as transients who had been "riding the rails" or were concealed in other spots on the train.

The Dead

"Billie" Hilton, 23, of Westville, Nova Scotia, who died of injuries at eight o'clock this morning at Sacred Heart Hospital, Hull.

An unidentified man about 25 years of age, discovered a short time after the wreck occurred.

A second unidentified man between 25 and 30 years of age found under a tank car shortly after daylight today.

Injured.

Frank Grabeau, 45, of Montreal, injuries to both legs, with possible fracture of right leg, patient at Ottawa Civic Hospital;

Alexander Campbell, 39, of no fixed address, head injuries, severe shock and possible fracture of right thigh, also at Civic Hospital;

John Green, 23, of Westville, N.S., one of the Moose River mine disaster heroes, his right arm fractured, bad head and face injuries, patient at Sacred Heart Hospital, Hull;

John Hilton, 19, of Westville, N.S., in Sacred Heart Hospital with a fractured left thigh bone, and cuts and bruises on the right leg;

Garland Oldfield, 28, also of Westville, patient at Sacred Heart Hospital, suffering from fracture of left thigh.

Another man, whose name was not learned, was treated at Civic Hospital and later allowed to go.

All three at Sacred Heart Hospital were listed as serious.

Opens An Inquest.

The second body, discovered by a wrecking crew at six o'clock this morning, was viewed by Dr. Leopold Renaud, Pontiac county coroner, and transferred temporarily to Pontiac station, pending possible identification. An inquest was opened this afternoon. No papers nor marks of identification were found in the man's clothing. In view of the immense amount of debris and the weight of the laden box, tank and freight cars, a second working crew was despatched to the scene this morning and joined workers already there in their gruesome search. The crash occurred at three o'clock, standard time.

Work crews of more than 200 men under the direction of P. H. Fox, C.N.R. assistant-superintendent of Ottawa, toiled at high pressure this morning and afternoon clearing away the tangled mass of wreckage. At noon no other bodies were found although some of the transients who escaped injury were sure that several more men had been entombed in the crash.

Says Track Was Sound

Mr. Fox said he expected to have the wreckage cleared away and 300 feet of track rebuilt for traffic by late this afternoon. Leo Elliott, section foreman of Pontiac Station, declared that he had carefully inspected the stretch of track where the wreck occurred just a few hours before the derailment and found it to be in sound condition.

Several large box cars, tank cars and flat cars are still lying turned over in the ditch and swamp beside the right-of-way and are being hoisted by cranes.

Several survivors of the wreck made their way into Quyon last night and expressed the fear that perhaps nine or ten more men had lost their lives.

Tales of Crash

Basil Williams, 28 year old transient from the maritimes gave The Journal a graphic account of the wreck. "I was on a flat car loaded with square timber, directly behind one of the tank cars. It seemed to me that there were at least a dozen men on the tankers. I saw the cars in front buckle and shoot up in the air, so directly behind one of the tank cars I jumped hoping to get clear of the falling timber and cars. Luckily I jumped the right way and landed safely on soft ground.

"I didn't see the gang of fellows on the tank car afterwards and don't see what else could have happened to them but to be crushed under the weight of steel."

Williams was unable to identify the bodies of the two victims which were taken from the debris last night and this morning.

Between 20 and 25 men were riding oil tanker cars and iron loaded freight cars in the train. Although several men were seen to run away from the scene as the cars piled up on both sides of the demolished trackage, it was believed some may have been buried in the wreck.

Fewer than half of those believed to be riding on the train were definitely accounted for.

Heading east from North Bay. The train had swung across the Ottawa river to the Pontiac area, where the C.N.R. line continues on the north shore of the Ottawa to Fitzroy Harbor, crossing back to Ontario at that point for the run to Ottawa.

The freight, official C.N.R. train No. 402, was only two miles west of Pontiac station, between Norway Bay and Quyon, when a wheel became detached from the sixth car from the locomotive. This car and others following it left the tracks and were piled up in the swamp the train was passing at the time. The tracks were torn up for a distance of 200 feet.

One Moose River Rescuer

Four Westville, N.S., young men, one of them a miner who assisted two years ago in the rescue of two of three men imprisoned in a mine in Moose River, N.S., were admitted at Sacred Heart Hospital, Hull, in a serious condition, and three other injured men were treated at Ottawa Civic Hospital and were admitted there. The identity of the men whose bodies were recovered from the wreckage at the scene were not established.

Survivor Tells of Wreck

"We four boys had been travelling around together looking for work", he said. "I was one of the guys in on the Moose River affair, when we got out Dr.

Robertson and Alfred Scadding. No, don't call me 'draegerman'. I hadn't anything to do with that part of it. I used to be a miner and helped at Moose River at the time of the rescue, that's all.

"Well, me and the boys had been working around St. Thomas, Ont., but things got tough there. So we thought we would head for the North country. But there is not as much work there as they say, and we couldn't get anything worth while to do. So we figured on heading east - to get home if we could work our way there.

"We were among the gang riding this here freight train. It was a long train. It was hitting about 35 or 40 when the trouble happened. The other three boys in my gang were on an oil tank car ahead of me. I was riding the front end of the next car, also a tanker. Suddenly I see the car in front of me jump in the air. There was a cloud of dust and the next thing I know the brakies were hauling me out of the wreckage. I'm lucky I did not get killed, but, as the cloud of smoke or dust came, I hung on to a rod tight. The whole car toppled over on us.

"How many were riding the train? That I can't say. It must have been more than 20, possibly 25. I know some of the lads were seen running away in the bush and swamp after the smash - possibly five or six of them. But there must be other guys in that wreckage."

How many lives were lost appears impossible to tell as aid was hurried to the scene of the mishap.

C.N.R. Statement

P.H. Fox, of Ottawa, assistant C.N.R. superintendent in this division, hurried to the vicinity of Pontiac station with medical aid and a relief train, as news of the tragedy reached Ottawa. Late Sunday night Mr. Fox, still directing rescue workers at the scene, issued the following statement through the C.N.R. office here, to the press.

"In a derailment of several cars on a through eastbound freight train at 3 p.m. this afternoon at a point about 40 miles west of Ottawa, and near Pontiac, one trespasser riding the train met fatal injury and four others were more or less seriously injured. Several other trespassers riding the train escaped unhurt. The deceased was unknown, age about 25 years. Remains are in charge of the coroner of Pontiac county located at Campbell's Bay.

The injured are Billie Hilton, John Hilton, Geralf Oldfield and John Green, from Westville, N.S., and were promptly taken by coach to Ottawa and to Sacred Heart Hospital, Hull. An investigation concerning cause of accident is being made promptly by the railway."

Members of the crew of No. 402, the freight concerned, were G.H. Stewart, conductor, and Donald McPhail, engineer, both of Ottawa.

When the accident happened calls for help were sent to the settlements and Summer colonies on the north shore of the Ottawa near the scene. Living close by were Dr. M.D. Graham, 231 Crichton street, Ottawa, and Mrs. Graham, who were occupying their summer cottage near Bristol. News of the derailment reached Dr. Graham through a railway employe at Bristol. The doctor at once boarded a light locomotive, which was on the tracks there, and hurried to the scene. In the meantime Mrs. Graham took out the doctor's car and drove towards the derailment.

Wife Helps in Rescue

Thus while Dr. Graham was the first physician on the scene, Mrs. Graham played an important part in the rescue work. Three of the injured were staggering along the road from the railway towards her car, as she approached the scene. They were all evidently hurt. Without stopping to inquire how they were hurt, she bundled them in the car and drove as fast as she could for Ottawa. She landed the patients at Ottawa Civic Hospital at about 7.30 p.m.

They included Grabeau and Campbell. The two who were admitted at Civic Hospital, and another man who was only slightly hurt and was given first aid.

Dr. Graham, in the meantime, had taken part in a general search of the wrecked train for victims. One body was found almost immediately. The victim had met instant death.

It was impossible to probe the wreckage. Some of the cars had been loaded with iron ingots from the North country. These were piled high on both sides of the railway right-of-way, amid wreckage of the tank and other cars. The track was torn up for a considerable distance. One freight car had been loaded with lumber, and this added to the debris as the car was smashed to small pieces.

Railway telegraph carried news of the mishap to Ottawa and Acting Superintendent Fox took immediate steps to organize a relief train. He communicated with Dr. George S. MacCarthy, 110 Lisgar street and Dr. Lorne Gardner, 328 Waverley street. They did not wait for a wrecking crew to be assembled for the relief train, but started at once for Pontiac station.

Dr. Graham had given first aid to several injured men at the scene. All were transients.

To their travel-stained bodies had been added the muck of the swamp into which the derailment precipitated them, and doctors found dirt ground into their wounds.

Four suffer fractures

Four of those found at the scene has suffered fractures, at least one of them being critically injured. Immediately the relief train reached the scene they were transferred to a special coach and hurried to the Capital and to Sacred Heart Hospital.

At the hospitals here emergency measures were at once employed for the victims of the wreck. Dr. N. Schechter, of the Civic Hospital staff attended the two men admitted there, and at Sacred Heart Hospital Dr. Gerald Brisson took charge of the four serious men transferred there.

Await identification

When it was established that death had resulted from the derailment, Dr. Leopold Renaud, of Campbell's Bay, chief coroner for the Pontiac district, was summoned to the scene. He had the body of the unidentified victim taken to a funeral home at Campbell's Bay, where it will be kept while efforts are made to establish the transient's identity.

Work of the railway authorities in determining the exact outcome of the derailment was complicated by the character of the "passengers" hurt. All were men who had boarded the freight train unlawfully, most of them being unemployed men "beating" their way east from the mining areas of the North country.

Some Fled to Bush

Immediately after the crash railwaymen say a number of those who were on the freight, fled into the bush for fear of consequences, and it was stated no possible count of heads could be made to determine how many were concerned in the mishap.

At the point of the derailment there is a creek beside the railway right-of-way, and the wrecked cars toppled into a quagmire in which it was feared bodies may have been pressed down under tons of debris.

C.N.R. officials in Ottawa left no stone unturned to right matters when they reached the scene. Those hurt were given as much consideration as though they had been first-class regular passengers. On their arrival at hospitals in Ottawa and Hull, railway officials made arrangements for local doctors to take charge of the cases at railway expense.

Trackage on the important Pontiac link of the C.N.R. system in this division, was disrupted by the derailment, and it is believed it would be at least 24 hours before service could be restored over the line of the north shore. There was only slight delay in passenger and freight movement on the division, however, traffic being rerouted through Golden Lake and Pembroke junction.

Sense of Desolation

Darkness closing down on the scene of the wreck hampered searshers, but powerful search lights directed on the torn section of the track revealed an appalling pamorama of desolation. The fast freight rushing eastward over the main line, caused two of the heavy tank cars in its wake to buck high into the air. It was said at the scene the cars jumped as high as the top of telegraph poles.

Wreckage of two refrigerator cars was strewn about, and the ground was littered with the carcasses of mutton and beef. Copper and zinc in bars and blocks also lay about. Some of the freight cars had been loaded with this valuable cargo. Officials said it would be necessary in some cases to unload the metal, which was not upset, in order to raise the overturned cars.

Parents Are Notified

The body of Billie Hilton, who died of injuries in hospital, was conveyed to Gauthier's undertaking parlours, 101 Notre Dame street, Hul, and news of his death was sent to his father, Henry Hilton, Grant street, Westville, N.S. Coroner Dr. Joseph Isabelle viewed the body at the morgue but is holding no inquest since Hilton's death will be investigated together with those of the other victims by the authorities of the county of Pontiac.

Preparations had been made at Sacred Heart Hospital to amputate both of Hilton's legs, which were shattered in the wreck, but death intervened.

Believe "Missing" Escaped

Montreal, May 8 - Canadian National Railways headquarters said tonight reports reaching here indicated not more than one man had been killed in the derailment today of a fast freight near Quyon, Que.

The advice received at the railway's office from the scene of the wreck said one man known dead was a "trespasser" on the train. His identity was not known. The Montreal railway officials said there was no likelihood any bodies remained among the 19 cars which they asserted had been derailed. The wreckage had been searched thoroughly, they declared. There had been no fire.

The 13 transients listed as "missing" were believed here to have left the scene of the wreck, the railway office said. Officials had not heard tonight how many were aboard the train.

The railway office said it had not been advised of the cause of the accident but it was described as "not a bad derailment". The cars had not been badly damaged it was explained.

Cause of Wreck Is Not Determined

Employes Say Train and Tracks in Good Condition One Body Not Identified.

At a coroner's inquest held on Monday over the three victims of Sunday's train wreck near Norway Bay, jury found that death of the three was accidental and that actual cause of the wreck could only be determined by further investigation.

Killed in the crash were: Billie Hilton, Westville, Nova Scotia, who died in Sacred Heart Hospital, Hull; Andrew Manson, of North Bay, and a third man as yet unidentified. Dr. Leopold Renaud, Pontiac county coroner, presided at the inquest.

Questioning of the train crew and others during the inquest failed to determine the cause of the derailment. Close scrutiny of the rails by C.N.R. officials had disclosed no clue to the mishap, and it was believed the actual cause of the wreck would never be known.

Members of the train crew said a complete inspection of the train had been made at Pembroke Junction a short time before the accident and had failed to reveal any defects in any of the car wheels. It was also shown that an inspection of the roadbed had been made the morning of the wreck and it had been found to be in perfect condition.

After hearing the evidence of five witnesses it took the jury only a few minutes to return a verdict of accidental death.

Find Wreck Accidental

The inquest was opened at the home of William Taylor at Pontiac Station by Dr. L. Renaud, coroner for Pontiac county at three o'clock and lasted more than two hours before the jury brought in a verdict attributing the deaths of the three men to a train wreck caused by an accident.

Donald McPhail locomotive engineer, of 344 Stewart street Ottawa, said the freight was proceeding east towards Pontiac Station at speed of about 38 to 40 miles an hour when the emergency brakes suddenly went on. "I looked back along the tracks and saw the cars had jumped the rails. All we could do was hang on and wait until the train pulled to a stop. I went back and viewed the situation, then proceeded with the engine and four cars to Pontiac Station where I phoned the despatcher in Ottawa."

Later Mr. McPhail said he went back to the scene of the wreck with a doctor from Ottawa to render first aid to the injured men.

He noticed four men who were suffering from injuries, and later found one man dead in the muskeg.

Questioned closely by the coroner as to what might have caused (the accident Mr. McPhail said he had no idea whatever.

Track All Right

"You were never told the track in bad condition?" asked J. Noonan, Crown Attorney for Pontiac, who questioned the witnesses.

"The track was all right", replied Mr. McPhail

Mr. Noonan: "Is it a habit for people to get on the trains? Mr. McPhail: "

"It is mighty hard to keep them off these days".

Mr. Noonan: "Did you know of any on the train that day."

Mr. McPhail: "No, I could not say I did".

Inspected at Pembroke.

Mr. McPhail explained the train's last stop had been at Pembroke, where a thorough inspection had been made of all the cars. There was nothing whatever wrong with the train.

Asked if there were many empty cars in the 40 which comprised the freight Mr. McPhail said there three, two empty tank cars and one empty coal car.

Mr. McPhail further explained in answer to questions by the coroner and the Crown attorney that the brakes applied themselves the air lines broke with the derailment of the car.

At the conclusion of his evidence McPhail said he had no idea what had caused the derailment of the cars. It might have been a dozen things, and he would not take the responsibility of saying what it had been.

Two Buried in Wreck

George Stewart conductor of the train; who resides at 32 Second avenue, Ottawa, was the next witness. He said he saw a cloud of dust and all they could do was wait until the train came to a stop.

"I went along the track and dug out two men who were badly hurt. They were buried right up to their shoulders in the mud. Later I found another man who was dead."

Mr. Stewart said he was one of the three men who inspected the train at Pembroke Junction. Everything was in good condition.

Questioned as to the transients on the train, Mr. Stewart said he saw at least 25 men hanging around the train at Pembroke Junction but he could not say how many of them, if any, got on the train as he did not see them when the train pulled out.

William Old, C.N.R. constable, of 110 1-2 Third avenue, Ottawa, said he proceeded to the scene of the wreck on the auxiliary train which, reached Pontiac Station at seven o'clock. He was placed in charge of the dead man, who had been found in the muskeg pending the arrival of the coroner.

Mr. Old said he searched the body for identification but failed to find anything that would reveal his name or where he came from. He was a man of about 23 years of age, weighing about 160 pounds. His complexion was dark, eyes were brown. He wore a green sweater with two yellow bands on the arms, dark grey trousers, brown shoes, blue shirt and blue tie.

Hugh Hastings, 22 Thornton avenue, another C.N.R. constable, gave similar evidence.

Second Victim Unknown.

Robert French, provincial detective located at Campbell's Bay, gave the description of the second man found underneath one of the tank cars on Monday morning. He was 25 to 30 years of age and five feet 10 inches in height and weighed about 135 pounds.

He had a fair complexion, blond hair, green eyes, and a scar on the left side of the chin. He was wearing a blue sweater, blue shirt, red necktie, dark grey trousers with checks, black socks and heavy black boots.

A search of the man's clothing failed to reveal anything which might give a possible clue as to his identity, although in his pocket was a small notebook containing several names including that of Miss Irene Valiquet 318 Stewart street and addresses of several persons in North Bay.

In summing up the evidence Dr. Renaud said the jurymen had heard sufficient of the circumstances to decide whether the wreck was due to an accident or had been caused by lack of care or negligence.

In a few minutes the jury returned with a verdict of accidental death.

Working continuously since their arrival on the scene, wrecking crews drove the last spike in the rebuilt right-of-way shortly before 6 p.m. Monday, and traffic over the main line was resumed.

Twisted and broken box cars, pieces of scrap metal, were, piled along either side of the tracks as the regular service was resumed, and these will be removed on flat cars immediately.

Injured Improving

Slight improvement was noted at Ottawa and Hull hospitals of the five injured in the wreck who are still under treatment here.

At Civic Hospital it was determined that Alexander Campbell, 39, of no fixed address, has a fracture of the right thigh bone, but the other patient at Civic Hospital, Frank Grabeau, 45, of Montreal, has no broken bones, although he suffered considerably from shock and minor injuries.

At Sacred Heart Hospital improvement was reported in the condition of Garland Oldfield, 28, of Westville, N.S., and John Green, 23, also of Westville, two of the four who were hurried to Hull on a relief train from Quyon district early on Sunday evening.

In another little ward at Sacred Heart Hospital there is one empty bed. In it "Billie" Hilton, 23, of Westville, N.S., died on Monday morning, both his legs having been terribly crushed in the wreck.

In Adjoining Beds.

His brother, John Hilton, 19, also of Westville, lies in an adjoining bed suffering from a fractured left thigh bone, and other serious injuries. He knew brother Billie was dead.

Late on Sunday night the Hilton brothers asked to be placed in adjoining beds when they learned both were in the same hospital. During the night they talked.

Nurses found them in conversation at seven o'clock in the morning. At eight o'clock, while brother John slept Billie Hilton died. A screen was placed around his bed. The body was removed. Then his brother awakened and was unable to obtain a response from the adjoining bed, he thought brother Billie was asleep. But finally, hospital authorities were obliged to break the news of his brother's death. John's condition received a setback as a result of the added shock of his bereavement but it is believed he will recover.

The body of Billie Hilton is at Gauthler's Funeral Parlors, In Hull, awaiting word from relatives in Westville. N.S.

11/05/1938 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Bells Corners

Truck Struck By Freight Train, Two Men Are Injured

Two men were injured and a truck was almost completely destroyed when it was struck by an eastbound Canadian National Railways freight train near Bell's Corners about 6.25 last evening. The train was No. 402. the Vancouver-Halifax manifest freight, the same as the one that was involved in the wreck near Norway Bay on Sunday afternoon when three men lost their lives.

Wolf Bodovsky, 321 St. Andrew street. Ottawa, driver of the truck. was rushed to the Civic Hospital where it was found that he was suffering severely from bruises and shock. His condition is not serious. At the hospital this morning he was reported as resting comfortably. A. J. Beaulne. of 166 York street, a passenger in the truck, at first thought he had escaped unscathed, but when he returned to his home last night it was found that his left leg was severely lacerated. The truck was proceeding towards Ottawa at the time of the crash and was almost across the tracks when it was struck. The occupants of the truck were tossed clear of the vehicle.

Railway officials claimed that all signals were given as the train approached the crossing. The train was not derailed and was delayed only short time.

The injured men were placed in the caboose and brought to Ottawa. The train was in charge of Engineer George Pumple. 646 Somerset street west, and Conductor Arthur Wilson, also of Ottawa. The train bore the same number as that involved in the accident on Sunday, but had a different crew and make-up. It was a mixed transcontinental freight, east-bound, with about 40 cars.

19/07/1938 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Pembroke

James Sullivan, aged 51, C.N.R. trainman, of 589 1/2 Bank street, died at Pembroke General Hospital last night as a result of injuries he suffered when he slipped beneath the wheels of a moving freight train at Pembroke on July 7.

It was found necessary to amputate the left limb which was badly crushed. A few months ago Mr. Sullivan was crushed between two cars, and had only returned to work a short time before the fatal accident occurred.

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08/08/1938 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Strathearn

Crack Train Derailed Near Ottawa

Member of crew discovers defective wheel and stops flyer - 70 passengers come in by bus to Ottawa.

Derailed of a car on the No. 2 trans-continental C.N.R. train at 5.40, standard time this morning, near Strathearn, about 17½ miles from Ottawa, held up the train more than 3 hours and made it necessary for 70 passengers to be transported to Ottawa by buses.

No one was injured in the accident, which was caused by a broken journal on the fourth car from the front. The train, due in Ottawa at 6:20 standard time, was 3 hours and 22 minutes late, but meanwhile it's Montreal contingent had arrived by bus and had been transferred to the number No. 45 train.

Brought In By Bus

Normally the latter train leaves Ottawa for Montreal at 7.30, but when word came through that the passengers from the derailed train were being brought in by bus No. 45 was held for about an hour. Among the 70 passengers brought in by bus were a number of Ottawa residents.

The No. 2 train was brought to an immediate stop when a member of the crew noticed there was something wrong with the wheels of the fourth car. The train was going 25 miles an hour. Investigation revealed one pair of wheels had become derailed as a result of a broken journal, and the rails had been torn up for a short distance.

R. A. McQuade, assistant superintendent of the C.N.R., with W. Roach, master mechanic, and members of the auxiliary mechanical staff, were rushed to the scene, and repaired the broken Journal.

12 Cars In Train.

There were 12 cars on the train. The car involved in the mishap carried a load of fish from Prince Rupert, B.C., for consumption in Montreal. The accident occurred on the Beachburg sub-division line.

J.A. Rogers, C.N.R. Superintendent, told The Journal the damage was very slight and the accident was not regarded as serious.

26/09/1939 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Ottawa, Bells Corners

The funeral of Lucien Rochon, 29-year-old son of Alfred Rochon and the late Mrs. Rochon, who was accidentally killed on Monday when a gasoline speeder on which he was riding was struck by a C.N.R. freight train just west of Bell's Corners, will be held on Wednesday morning at 7.35 from the home of his sister

03/10/1939 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Death of L. Rochon Termed Accidental

Accidental death with no blame attached to any person was the verdict of a coroner's jury enquiring into the death of Lucien Rochon, 29, of 89 Stewart street, killed on September 28 in a collision between a freight train and a gasoline car at Sullivan's cut. three miles northwest of Bell's Corners. Coroner Dr. J. S. Nelson presided at the inquest held at the Westboro town hall Monday evening.

Both the fireman and engineer of the freight train testified the collision was unavoidable as the train was upon the gasoline car before brakes could stop it. The section foreman in charge of the car said the train was a special and was not expected. The car carrying section hands home from work was travelling at three miles per hour as a precautionary measure.

Crown Attorney Raoul Mercier questioned the witnesses.

03/05/1940 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Kathmore

Engine Derailed In Pembroke Washout

PEMBROKE, May 3. According to authorities here the westbound continental limited of the C.N.R., travelling between Montreal and Vancouver, struck a washout at Kathmore, a flag station, 28 miles west of Pembroke on the C.N.R. main line about 2 o'clock this morning.

The engine and two of the cars were derailed but the extent of the damage is unknown here. A cut on the face of the engineer was the only known injury sustained.

Auxiliary trains were sent out from Pembroke this morning to put the limited back on the tracks.

C.N.R. STATEMENT

Canadian Press. MONTREAL, May 3. Canadian National Railways officials said no one was injured in the derailment early, today of the westbound Transcontinental Limited in a washout at Kathmore, a flag station 28 miles west of Pembroke, Ont.

The engine and two baggage cars left the rails, according to a company statement, and remained in an upright position. It was reported none of the passengers left the train because of the heavy downpour, which caused a washout 50 feet long and six feet deep.

Due to the washout the train, which was due here at 6 a.m., was delayed eight hours.

Passengers Unhurt When Train Derailed

PEMBROKE, Ont., May 3. (Staff) Passengers and train crew of the C. N. R. Continental Limited escaped injury when the engine and two cars were derailed at Kathmore, 20 miles west of Pembroke, at 2.30 this morning by a washout.

The engineer was slightly cut but no other injuries were reported. Kathmore is a small flag station between North Bay and Pembroke and the hole in the roadbed was close to the station.

Extent of the damage and time required to make repairs was not known here late this morning, but a wrecking train left Pembroke to clear the line and repair any damage.

26/12/1940 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Alton Beckett Killed as Train Hits Sleigh.

Alton Beckett, 58, of 170 Drummond street, farm hand in the employ of Thomas E. Nesbitt, City View, was killed instantly at 11.40 a.m. on Tuesday when a horse-drawn sleigh he was driving was struck by an eastbound C.N.R. transcontinental train on a side road off the Merivale road at City View. The train was travelling at about 60 miles an hour at the time of the accident.

The body was taken to the parlors of Hulse and Playfair Limited, 315 McLeod street, where an inquest was opened last night by Dr. J.S. Nelson, coroner, of Westboro. The inquest was adjourned until January 3 and will be held at Nepean town hall, Westboro.

Mr. Beckett, who had only been working on the Nesbitt farm for about six weeks, was making his daily trip across the C.N.R. main line when his sleigh was struck by the fast-moving train. He was wearing a cap with earflaps on it which is believed to have deadened the sound of the approaching train. The sleigh was reduced to matchwood and the unfortunate man was struck with terrific violence. His mangled body was caught in the front part of the engine and carried more than 1,200 feet before the train could be brought to a stop. He suffered multiple fractures of the skull and not a bone on his left side was unbroken.

Horses Escape.

Two horses which were pulling the sleigh had a remarkable escape. They had crossed the tracks when the sleigh was struck. One of them suffered a slight cut while the other was unhurt. The frightened animals broke loose when the sleigh was struck and stampeded into the yard at the Nesbitt farm. Their return to the farm was the first warning the Nesbitt household had of the accident.

Three C.N.R. section men, James McLean, Raymond Bernie and Charles Giroux, were working about a mile east on the railway tracks at the time. They heard the crash and ran to the scene of the accident.

The body was released from the front of the engine by the train crew and later taken to the parlors of Hulse and Playfair, Ltd., after it had been viewed by the district coroner. The train was not long delayed and had proceeded on its way to Union station when the coroner and police arrived. Provincial Constable Thomas Hazlitt investigated.

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26/12/1940 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg*

Farm Employe Killed by Train

A. J. Beckett Driving Near Merivale Road

When his horse drawn sleigh was struck by the C.N.R. Transcontinental flyer travelling at 60 miles per hour, at a level crossing on a farm road off the Merivale road at noon Tuesday, Albert J. Beckett, 58-year-old farm laborer, was instantly killed.

The body of Mr. Beckett was recovered 1,200 feet along the right-of-way from the crossing, which is located a short distance from the farm house of T. E. Nesbitt on the Merivale road

Inquest Adjourned.

Dr. J.S. Nelson, coroner, was called and ordered the body removed to Hulse and Playfair, Limited. 313 McLeod street. An inquest was opened and adjourned to Friday, January 3 at the County Court House.

After the sleigh was struck, the whiffle tree of the sleigh snapped where it joined the vehicle and the horses returned to the farm. This gave Mrs. Nesbitt the first indication that an accident had occurred.

In the meantime three section men who had been working at Federal station saw the train had pulled to a stop and went up the right-of-way to investigate. The men were James McLean, foreman, Raymond Verney and Charles Giroux.

Finding there had been a fatality, the men notified the Ontario Police. The train proceeded to Montreal.

Cap Over His Ears.

Mr. Nesbitt told The Journal. Mr. Beckett had been driving a load of manure from the barn to a field across the railway track every day since he came to the farm two months ago. He could not understand how he failed to hear the bell of the train and said it might have been due to the fact that the farmhand always kept his cap pulled down over his ears.

12/02/1942 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Fitzroy Harbor*

Fitzroy Harbor Farmer Dies From Injuries.

Injured in a spectacular train-automobile accident at Fitzroy Harbor last Friday, Daniel McMahon, 70., well-known Fitzroy Township farmer, died in Civic Hospital Thursday evening.

Mr. McMahon was taking his son and daughter to Arnprior for dental treatment in his automobile when the accident occurred. He had turned off the highway to cross the railroad tracks near Fitzroy Harbor depot. He missed the filled-in section of the crossing and the car became stalled in the railway tracks.

Seeing a C.N.R. freight train pounding down the rails a few seconds away, he shouted to his children to get out of the car and started to do so himself.

The children, being more agile, managed to clamber out of the car to safety before their father, who was a heavy man.

The train crashed into the car split seconds after Mr. McMahon climbed from the driver's seat. The automobile, pushed, by the impact, struck him and hurled him 30 feet.

15/10/1942 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Bank Street*

At 9 o'clock last night, two C.N.R. freight trains had a spectacular head-on collision just west of the steel trestle over the Metcalfe Road at Billings Bridge. One of the trains was transporting some forty horses for the army. At the point of impact, the two cars carrying the horses took a tumbling dive down the 85-foot embankment. Six crew members on the train were injured.

Paul Boisvenue, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Boisvenue, was returning home along the muddy dark road at the foot of the embankment, had to run to get out of the way of horses and big pieces of lumber that were falling around him. "I told my mother what had happened and she, together with her guests, Mrs. L.

Lavigne, Mrs. H. Taillon, Miss. Eva Brule and neighbours Mr. Alexis Brule and Mr. and Mrs. Edouard Brule were the first to arrive at the scene of the accident".

Misters Alexis Brule and Paul Boisvenue played a hurculean part in helping to free what horses were left alive in the overturned cars. A total of twenty horses were either killed outright or had to be destroyed after the crash.

Four Ottawa Men Hurt in Crash of Trains

\$10,000 Damage as Historic Structure Swept by Flames Which Are Visible Miles Away

PEMBROKE, Jan. 12 (Special)

Four Ottawa railwaymen were injured here tonight when an east-bound CNR freight train plowed into the rear of a standing freight on the main line about half mile west of Pembroke Junction at 6.15 o'clock.

Admitted to Pembroke General Hospital were: Philip Button, engineer, of 9 Graham street, who was "moderately badly burned, with extensive steam burns to practically his entire left side, and suffering from shock." Doctors state his condition "can be serious."

E. L. McElroy, fireman. 513 Lyon street, who suffered steam burns to his face, left shoulder and arm. His condition is not serious.

Joseph A. St. Onge. 29-year-old brakeman. of 385 St. Patrick street, who sustained bruises and slight steam burns. His condition is not serious.

Severely shaken up but not admitted to hospital was P. A. Potter, conductor, of 560 MacLaren street, who was riding in the caboose of the train. He is the father of Constable Don Potter of the Ottawa police force.

Two Cars Burn

As a result of the crash, which occurred when CNR train 401 to Ottawa rammed the rear end of an "extra" freight halted near the junction, one engine was thrown from the tracks and hurled down an embankment, its coal-tender derailed and overturned on the tracks, one caboose split in two and set afire, as was a lumber-loaded boxcar, and another car derailed.

The casualty list was shortened due to the fact that the crew of the standing train had left the caboose to walk forward to the engine checking for hot-boxes as they went, when the accident took place.

Members of the Pembroke fire department, who were called out when the caboose and the lumber loaded box car broke out in flames were unable to aid in extinguishing the fire. Snow-blocked roads along the CNR tracks leading to the scene prevented the firemen from reaching the scene.

Conductor Potter and Brakeman St. Onge. occupants of the caboose on the Ottawa bound train which struck the standing freight cars, were only slightly injured.

Mr. Potter was found by fellow trainmen as he was walking along the tracks in a dazed condition, a few minutes after the impact.

Trains Rerouted

Because of the location of the accident - about one mile and a half from Pembroke - regular train schedules were only slightly affected. Trains proceeding past Pembroke were able to continue on their runs by proceeding along the line through Golden Lake.

Shortly after the accident occurred a wrecking train with an Ottawa crew was rushed to the scene to clear away the twisted and burning remnants of the freight car, the engine and the caboose.

William H. Roach, superintendent of the CNR in Ottawa, left for Pembroke by automobile shortly before 8 o'clock last night and arrived at the scene in less than three hours to begin an investigation. He declined to make any statement to the press until a full investigation has been completed.

Conductor Potter, who was expected to arrive home at midnight Sunday, telephoned his wife and informed her of the mishap. He did not specify what injuries he had received in the mishap but said that he was feeling "fair."

On hearing of the wreck, W. J. Hotrum, district superintendent of the CNR who was in Montreal returned to the Capital late in the evening and was expected to leave for Pembroke early this morning to view the wreck.

31/01/1948 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Smyth Road*

Train Hits Auto Two Men Injured

Allan B. Turner, former city of Ottawa controller and clerk at the Rideau Health center. Billings Bridge, narrowly escaped death Tuesday evening, when the taxi in which he was a passenger was struck by a Toronto-bound train at the Smith [sic] road crossing.

The driver of the taxi. C. A. Livingston, 31 Fifth avenue, suffered internal injuries and shock when the taxi skidded onto the tracks and was struck on the left rear end by the oncoming train.

An Uplands bus, returning from its scheduled run from the health center stopped and returned the injured men to the center for treatment. Mr. Turner received two broken ribs and other injuries. Mr. Livingstone, following treatment, was removed to the Civic hospital where he was detained for observation. Mr. Turner is under the care of Dr. T. C. Smith, chief medical officer, Rideau Health center.

31/05/1948 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Billings*

No Date Set Yet For Inquest On Train Victim

Chief Coroner Dr. W. T. Shirreff stated yesterday that no date had been decided upon as yet for the inquest into the death early Saturday morning of 22-year-old Lucien Joannis, 53 Carruthers avenue, who was killed instantly, when the truck he was driving was struck by a CNR passenger train from Vancouver at a level crossing on the Walkley road near Billings Bridge.

Mr. Joannis, a driver for Ostafichuk's Cartage, 760 Gladstone avenue, was hauling sand and gravel for the Dibblee Construction Company on the Walkley road and was en route there for a load when the accident occurred.

Provincial Police Constable J. B. McNeil was continuing his investigation into the crash over the weekend but it was still unknown how Joannis failed to notice the speeding train approaching the crossing. The crossing is an open one and affords a clear view up and down the tracks.

23/06/1948 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Rule Accidental Death Of J. M. L. Joannis

A coroner's jury last night ruled accidental the death of Joseph M. L. Joannis, 22, of 53 Carruthers avenue, who was fatally injured May 29 when the truck he was driving was struck by a CNR transcontinental train at the Walkley Road crossing near Billings Bridge.

The jury added a recommendation for a signals standard to be placed 300 feet southwest of the crossing "due to the increase of traffic at that particular cross-ing."

Witnesses heard at the inquest, held in the county courthouse, were: Dr. J. O. Patton, Provincial Constable J. B. McNeill, John Ostafichuk, the victim's employer; George Pumble, train engineer; Edgar Olive, train fireman; Marcel Joannis, brother of the victim; and Edwin Wall, superintendent of Dibblee Construction Company Ltd.

Crown Attorney Raoul Mercier, KC, questioned the witnesses. The jury was empanelled by Coroner Dr. W. T. Shirreff

PEMBROKE Several persons had a narrow escape from death or serious injury and damage to railway rolling stock, estimated at several thousand dollars, was done here Saturday afternoon when a passenger coach of a stopped CNR mixed train was struck by the locomotive of an east-bound CNR freight. The crash, the impact of which was described as "terrific," occurred a short distance east of a point where the tracks intersect highway 62 on the outskirts of Pembroke.

As far as could be learned only one man was hurt, and only slightly in the crash. He was Emerith Wagoner, a Nova Scotian and passenger on the mixed train. He was apparently leaving the train when the freight plowed into it. He received slight knee injuries.

Little damage was said to have been caused to the freight train. The engineer and fireman reportedly leaped to safety seconds before the impact after being unable to avoid the collision. Wilmer Schultz of Ottawa was the engineer while the firemen was Raymond Markel, also of Ottawa. Other crew members were Conductor A. Joyce and Brakeman A. Martin of Ottawa.

Crew members of the standing train were: John MacKenzie, conductor; engineer Leo Bechamp; fireman Floyd Walker, and baggageman Albert Heubrer of Pembroke.

Traffic was halted on the tracks the CNR main line for about three hours. Use of a siding and removal of some wreckage enabled traffic to proceed. Divisional superintendent G. T. Dunn is in Pembroke to supervise clearing of the wreckage and to investigate the mishap but could not be reached for comment last night. Chief constable B. J. Carnegie and Sgt. B. S. Dickie of Pembroke police conducted a preliminary investigation at the scene.

Names and addresses of passengers, who had left the train just prior to the collision, could not be learned as they had either taxied or walked into Pembroke from where the train had halted. Their promptness in leaving the train, shortly after it stopped, undoubtedly resulted in their escape from death or injury.

Murray Pattin, Pembroke taxi-man, told The Citizen he had driven several train passengers from the scene of the accident just before it occurred and that six or seven others had left the vicinity on foot and proceeded into town.

One Injured

The injured man was treated by Dr. H. B. Cotnam, Pembroke. Wagoner, employed at a lumber camp near here, is said to have remained on the train after the other passengers had left. However, after having been involved in the mishap, he is said to have been able to proceed to the Pembroke Shook Mills, received his pay and departed. The Citizen checked local hotels without locating him, but officials at the mill said he was "all right."

It was learned later that in addition to Wagoner, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Ziebell, Locksley Station, near here, their daughter-in-law and an unidentified man, employed by the Hydro Electric Power Commission on a transmission line project at Algonquin Park, were also passengers.

Inside Yard Limits

Although details of the crash are still lacking, it was said the mixed train from Brent, Ont., had pulled inside the Pembroke yard limits and the engine had been unhooked to allow for shunting operations. Two or three cars, loaded with logs, with a combination passenger and baggage car at the rear, were standing on the tracks when the heavy freight plowed into them at 2.40 p.m. The resulting impact lifted the passenger car off the tracks, turning it around and leaving it badly shattered along the right of way. The cars loaded with logs were smashed also and the logs scattered in all directions for a distance of nearly 500 yards.

Trainmen here expressed "amazement" when questioned about a possible cause of the accident. They stated that the standing train was well inside the yard limits and that "the start of the limits was like a brick wall to a moving train."

Photos show damage caused Saturday afternoon just outside Pembroke town limits when CNR freight train rammmed passenger coach and two cars loaded with logs which were standing on main line. Passengers had left train shortly before the crash. Montaigne Photos

Robert Ross Of Micksburg Hit By Train

PEMBROKE Robert Ross, a resident of Micksburg, Ont., is in serious condition in Pembroke Cottage hospital this morning suffering from compound head injuries after being struck by a train on the outskirts of Pembroke last night.

Although details are not yet available, it appears that Ross was walking on the CNR right of way, on or near a subway bridge on the western outskirts of Pembroke, when he was struck by an eastbound CNR train in charge of engineer Daniel McCarthy and conductor J. B. Villeneuve, both of Ottawa.

The injured man is being attended by Dr. J. H. Joyner of Pembroke.

Sgt. Frank Potter and Constable Huntly Munro, Pembroke police department, are conducting an investigation.

Man Dies Of Injuries

PEMBROKE Robert Ross, Micksburg native who was struck by an eastbound CNR train on the outskirts of Pembroke late Thursday night died in Pembroke Cottage Hospital at 3.45 a.m. today from severe head injuries. Ross had been brought to hospital from the scene, about 100 yards west of the Eganville road subway in critical condition.

New Autos Smashed In Crossing Mishap

Trailer Wrecked By Train

Heavy Damage Near Britannia

When a CNR passenger train bound for Pembroke cut a heavily-laden automobile transport in two at the Graham Bay crossing, one-and-a-half miles west of Britannia at 9.20 o'clock this morning, John "Curly" Newell, 39-year-old driver of the transport escaped unhurt, but two brand new motor cars being delivered to an Ottawa dealer were wrecked. Three other new cars were undamaged in the spectacular crash.

Failing to notice the train until he was almost on the crossing, Newell realized it was too late to halt his heavy tractor-trailer vehicle. He told *The Evening Citizen* that he took a "100 to one" gamble by stepping on the gas in an effort to clear the crossing in front of the speeding train, but lost out when the locomotive knifed through the two-decker car trailer, completely shearing off the rear section.

One motor car, destined for Patterson Motors here, was tossed 30 ft under the impact and landed north-east of the crossing a tangled, twisted mass of metal and glass. The second car toppled from the still intact part of the trailer as the vehicle continued in motion and was badly damaged when it hit the pavement and rolled off the highway.

The locomotive, in charge of Engineer L. J. Turner, of 145 Echo Drive, and Fireman Herbert Roach, of 98 Gilmour Street, suffered some damage to the front portion but the train, in charge of Conductor W. M. Swinwood, 110 Clegg Street, was able to continue on to Pembroke after a 25-minute halt 500 yards north-west of the crossing where it came to a stop following the crash.

The engineer stated that the locomotive's whistle had been blowing as the train approached the crossing. Neither he nor the fireman noticed the transport vehicle until it suddenly appeared on the tracks dead ahead, Turner told *The Citizen*. He immediately applied his emergency brakes but it was impossible to bring his train to a halt in time to avoid the mishap.

The transport driver told *The Citizen* that when the locomotive sliced through the trailer air brake lines were severed and the trailer was without braking power. Fearing that if he jammed on the tractor brakes the trailer might whip about to the danger of several oncoming motorists, Newell brought his vehicle to a gradual stop while the torn and shattered rear-end of the trailer dragged along the highway for more than 300 feet.

Escape Injury

Newell, whose home is at 1438 Queen Street East, Toronto, said he had picked up his load of five new cars at Windsor yesterday afternoon to deliver them to Patterson Motors in Ottawa. He was alone in the cab of his tractor when the accident occurred and escaped without a scratch.

A group of section men who were working just south of the crossing stated that they heard the whistle of the locomotive blowing for some time before the train reached the crossing. Newell told police that he had not heard the whistle.

Trees and shrubs make the crossing a partially blind one to motorists approaching from the west and, Newell stated, he had no intimation of the train's approach until he was within a few feet of the tracks.

The accident was investigated by Provincial Cpl. Carl Johns and Constables William Gilchrist and James Burke.

03/11/1949 *Pembroke Observer*

Beachburg

Worker Killed When Train Strikes Truck on C.N.R. Main Line

When a logging truck was struck by a C.N.R. train near Brawney Wednesday afternoon, John Meilleur, 23, one of the occupants of the truck and two others were injured.

The injured men, Fernand Cormier and Roche Meilleur, brother of the dead man, were brought to the General Hospital here. Meilleur received treatment for head injuries and was released Friday night (?), while Cormier, whose injuries are more serious, is still a patient.

The accident occurred at what is known as the Hydro spur, where the transmission line from Rapides des Joachims crossed the C.N.R. main line, and the mixed train struck the rear end of the truck, spinning it around and overturning it in a ditch. The three occupants were thrown out and John Meilleur was struck by the engine. His body was badly mangled and his death was almost instantaneous.

The train, in charge of Conductor A.J. Cameron and Engineer Albert Bate of Ottawa, was proceeding slowly as it approached the siding.

The body of the victim and the two injured were placed on the train and brought to Pembroke.

More --

Three Ottawa Men Killed When Car Hits Train

Tragic ending to a sports outing a car-train crash at Bell's Corners early Sunday morning brought death to three young Ottawa men and serious injuries to a fourth.

The dead are: Norman Campbell Copping, 32, of 491 Cambridge Street.

Anthony Zito, 23, of 420 Preston Street.

Silvio Tiezzi, 21, of 261 Preston Street.

In Civic Hospital is:

Thomas Smirle, 21, of 135 Concord Street, fractured left leg, right foot partly severed, severe head and body injuries. His condition is said to be critical.

The accident occurred shortly after 12.30 a.m., Sunday when the car in which the four men were driving collided with the Vancouver-bound train at Bell's Corners. (Bell's Corners is eight miles south-west of Ottawa on Highway No. 15).

Killed Instantly

Copping, driver of the car, was instantly killed. Zito died shortly after admission to hospital. Tiezzi died at 3.30 Sunday afternoon, failing to respond to emergency treatment given at the Civic. He had suffered a fractured skull, compound fracture of the right leg and multiple body injuries.

Police reports said the men apparently failed to see the train. The automobile, a 1947 model, collided with a baggage car as the train roared across Highway No. 15 at the crossing just west of Bell's Corners.

The force of the impact threw the automobile engine into an adjoining field. The shattered car body was tossed completely off the highway.

The four men were returning to Ottawa from Stittsville where they had played an exhibition Softball game under lights. Three of the men, Norman Copping, Anthony Zito and Silvio Tiezzi, were members of the Stanley Brookes electrical firm team of Ottawa.

Bill Copping, 23, brother of Norman and also a member of the team, said the group of players were driving to Ottawa in four cars.

"Mine was the first car and I didn't see the train coming until the last minute," Bill said. "I didn't have time to stop so I just gave the car the gun and beat the train by about 15 or 20 feet.

"My brother's car was behind mine. I guess he didn't see it either and drove right into it."

Bill Copping said he had not heard the train whistle. There were no wig-wag lights at the crossing.

He added that at the time he knew nothing of the accident and drove on to Ottawa. It was only later he learned of the tragedy.

William Teehan, manager of the team, was following two or three cars behind and did not see the accident. He was one of the first to come on the scene of the crash.

"Grim Sight"

"It was a grim looking sight," said Teehan. "The injured boys were conscious but seemed to be suffering from shock.

"We covered them with blankets as soon as we could and waited for the ambulances to come along."

The manager said he didn't know the cause of the accident because he hadn't seen what happened.

"The boys were overtired from the game," he said, "and that's a dangerous crossing with no wig-wag signal."

Immediately following the crash, the train crew threw on the emergency brakes and brought the passenger-train to a halt a short distance down the right-of-way.

In charge of the train was Conductor Donald St. Denis of Capreol, Ont., and the engineer was James McKenny of Glinn Avenue, Overbrook. They and other crew members rushed to the aid of the injured motorists and assisted in summoning ambulances.

The automobile was in collision with the train just back of the coal-tender. The train, passing by Bells Corners on time at 12.37 a.m., was delayed one hour and 15 minutes by the accident.

At the time of the collision, the train was travelling at about 50 miles per hour. Officials said that, as customary, the whistle had been sounded to give warning of the train's approach.

"Didn't See Train"

Sunday afternoon. Tommy Smirle, lone survivor of the crash, was reported to have said the occupants of the death-car "didn't even see the train." He, Copping, Zito and Tiezzi had been talking about the ball game. Without warning, they had struck the train.

Other members of the team travelling in a third car came upon the accident scene a few minutes later. The Exclusive and Carleton Ambulances were summoned and rushed the accident victims to the Civic Hospital.

Auto Runs Into Train

By Staff Reporter PEMBROKE When their car ran into the side of a slowly-moving train engine, two Pembroke district men escaped with slight injuries here last night in a level crossing accident on the Town Line, Pembroke.

Injured were W. J. Clarke, 70, RR 1, Rankin, who received bruises to his leg and right hand and George Clarke, RR 1, Rankin, who sustained air and nose bruises.

Police revealed that the men were in a car, operated by W. J. Clarke, which was travelling North on Town Line when it ran into the side of a CNR engine which was slowly backing East on the siding. The car was thrown into the ditch and damaged to the extent of \$300.

R. A. Conley, 382 Frank Street, Ottawa, was conductor on the train while the engineer was J. Murdock, also of Ottawa.

Death struck shortly before 8 a.m. today at the lonely Corks-town Road CNR crossing about three miles southwest of Ottawa. Mrs. Georgina Goody, 37, of 412 Preston Street, was instantly killed when the auto in which she was riding smashed into the side of the locomotive of a westbound CNR freight train travelling at 40 miles an hour. Driver of the car, Kenneth J. Thibeau, 374 Frank Street, escaped with severe face and leg lacerations. He was rushed to Civic Hospital by ambulance. Authorities said his condition was not serious. Both Thibeau and Mrs. Goody were flung out of the car by the force of the Impact. The crumpled light coupe was tossed 22 feet west of the crossing. Its motor was torn loose and hurled 69 feet from the crossing. Mrs. Goody's body was found a scant four feet behind the car. Thibeau landed a short distance away and staggered to his feet. The 54-car freight was bound for Brent. The car, driven by Thibeau, was heading northeast into Ottawa, police said. Train Fireman Edward H. Goddard, 276 Carruthers Avenue, told this story of the crash: "I was standing up front when I noticed this car coming over the knoll. "The driver didn't seem to pay any attention to us. He hit our left front pilot step. "Just before they hit I noticed the woman In the car look up at the engine. She threw her hands up. "The next thing, parts of the car were flying around. It just reared up and turned completely around." Fireman Goddard and Roy Browr). 133 King George Street, Ovefbro'ok, raced back to the crossing after the train had roared to stop almost 1,000 feet to the west. They found Thibeau walking around, half-dazed. Mrs. Goody's body was slumped behind the car. "The driver told me he had the radio on In the car quite loud. He figured, that was why hs hadn't heard the train," Goddard said. Engineer Charles F. Velnot, 182 Belmont Avenue, and Conductor Percy Sloan, also of Ottawa, told Ontario Provincial Police that the train whistle and engine bell were working as the freight approached the crossing. There is no wigwag or bell at the crossing itself but from the southwest the gravel Corkstown Road slopes 250 feet toward the crossing. It was the right front side of the car which collided with the locomotive step. The car was hurled Into the air, swung completely around and left facing toward the crossing. The tragedy which sent Thibeau to the hospital was the second to hit the Thlbeaus in three days. Mrs. Thibeau had just been admitted to hospital Monday for a serious operation. Thibeau was given first aid treatment at a nearby farmhouse by Dr. W. O. Robertson, of Carp, then rushed to Civic Hospital by Exclusive Ambulance.

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Train Kills Eight Cows
KINBURN Dan Grierson of Woodlawn, suffered a \$3,000 loss when eight out of a herd of 18 milk cows, were killed by the westbound CNR flyer. The cows broke out of a back field into one along side the railway tracks.

Girl Leaps From In Front Of Train
Barbara Stoddart, 19-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Stoddart, 5 1/2 Plymouth Street, missed death by inches this morning when she was "brushed" by the Pembroke local on the crosstown tracks near Rochester Street. Miss Stoddart, a stenographer a the Central Ordnance Depot left her home shortly before 830 a. .and was proceeding along the right of way when the train loomed up behind her. Attempted To Leap She attempted to leap clear of the the tracks, but apparently the train brushed her in passing and hurled her down beside the right-of-way. She sustained a possible fracture of her right arm in the fall and was suffering from shock. The emergency car of the fire department was rushed to the scene and the injured girl was conveyed to the Civic Hospital. "Barbara leaves about 8.30 every morning to walk to work. But she does not usually go along lthe railway track." the girl's mother said. "It might be that the train came along just as she was at the crossing and she became confused and ran along the tracks." Suffers Shock Hospital authorities said that while the girl was suffering from jshock, and a possible fractured right arm. her condition was not regarded as serious. X-rays will be taken to determine whether not tne arm is broken. Her escape is regarded as miraculous since had she been struck by the train sne wou'ld certainly have been killed. As a result of the accident the train a CNR local to Pembroke, was held up for some minutes until the arrival of the ambulance and investigation of the accident.

New Rail Link - CNR work train, upper right, is seen laying ballaht on a new rail connection near South March which will divert traffic from the Barry's Bay line on to the CNR's main line into Ottawa. At left is seen the railway bridge which carries the main lline over the former Renfrew subdivision line, eight miles of which are to be abandoned between this connection and the Carting Avenue crossing at Kirkwood Avenue. The new junction will be in operation on Monday, September 29th. The eight miles of former right of way will become the western section of the new limited-access crosstown highway 17 near South March. The center section of the cross town tracks will be eliminated when the new yards for the use of the CNR on the Walkley Road are completed. The new junction is located one-half mile southeast from the railway overpass on highway 17 at Shirley's Bay, but It cannot be seen from the highway because of the screen of trees.

Man Killed When Auto Rams Train

His frantic, last-second attempt to leap to safety from the rear seat, of a moving automobile just before it rammed a freight train yesterday afternoon, resulted instead in the death of a 31-year-old man.

Mozart Durand, 67 Albert Street, Aylmer, Que., died almost instantly, when he jumped from the swerving automobile into the side of a freight car.

Two occupants in the front seat of the automobile escaped unhurt, when the early-model sedan crashed into the side of a passing freight, at the CNR level crossing on the Merivale road, about two miles south of City View Post Office. The accident occurred about 4.30 p.m.

Armand Larose, 29, of 172 Armstrong Street, driver of the car, and Albert Vigeault, 28, also of 67 Albert Street, Aylmer, walked out of the automobile without a scratch, although the motor in front of them buckled in the impact with the train.

None Saw Leap

No one witnessed the leap that ended in the death of the rear-seat passenger. From evidence in the wrecked auto, however, it was clearly indicated that the door had been opened from within.

It is believed that Durand noticed that the car was headed for the train, and tried to jump from the slow-moving automobile. The car swerved after striking the train, and veered from its northbound course, east across the road. The victim of the accident either lost his balance, or was thrown by the impact, and fell into the corner of one of the cars.

He was dragged a distance of about 25 feet, and died as a result of head injuries in a matter of seconds.

"There is little doubt but that Durand would have escaped unhurt, as did the two occupants in the front seat, if he had stayed in the car," an investigating police officer reported.

Coroner Dr. Harry Dover stated that an inquest will be held.

Involved in the fatality was an eastbound extra-freight train, locomotive No. 3434, in charge of Conductor Robert Stewart and Engineer H. O. O'Connor. The train was not ordered to remain on the scene.

Blame Laid To Driver In Car-Train Accident

A coroner's jury last night blamed lack of alertness on the part of an automobile driver for a level-crossing train-car crash that resulted in the death of Mozart Durand, 31, of Aylmer.

The accident happened on the afternoon of October 1.

The victim of the accident was a passenger in the rear of a 37-model automobile driven by Armand Larose, 172 Armstrong Street, when it struck a freight car at the CNR-Merivale Road crossing.

Jury Verdict

The verdict of the coroner's jury read in part: "From the evidence submitted it is the opinion of this jury that had the driver of the car been more alert when he was approaching the crossing this fatality would have been averted."

Although attaching no blame to the train crew, the jury also recommended that a greater vigilance be observed by train-men when coming into Ottawa in order to reduce the number of level-crossing accidents.

All of the witnesses testifying at the inquest agreed that visibility at the crossing was "excellent" and the approaching train could have been seen for at least a third of a mile before it came to the crossing.

Two employees of the Ontario Hydro, as well as member of the train crew, declared that a warning whistle had been sounded by the engineer, which started a quarter of a mile from the crossing and continued until the locomotive had passed the Merivale Road.

The driver of the car and a front-seat passenger, Albert Vigneau, of Aylmer, declared that they heard no warning whistle.

Other witnesses appearing at the inquest held in the courtroom at No. 1 Police Station included, Dr. John Patton, Ormond Barton, Hector Campbell, Lucien Tasse, and John Kilrea, as well as CNR employees George O'Connor, George Stewart, George Burns, Orval Ruttle and Charles Maher. Ontario Provincial Constable Bernard Goetz submitted the findings of his police investigation into the fatal accident.

Coroner Dr. Harry Dover presided at the inquest. The witnesses were questioned by Sidney V. Cwinn, who was acting for the crown-attorney.

Car Pushed Into Path Of Slow Moving Train

Two cars and a slow-moving freight train tangled about 10 a.m. yesterday at the Hurdan's Bridge level crossing, injuring one Cornwall woman and causing damage estimated at \$1,300.

Mrs. Cecille Gagne, 40, of 506 Adolphus Street, Cornwall, was taken to General Hospital with head bruises and other possible head injuries. She was detained for X-ray examination.

The three-way accident followed this pattern:

One car driven by Mrs. Gagne's husband, Arsene Gagne, was proceeding north on Riverside Drive.

Nearing the crossing, Gagne spotted the CNR freight backing west. He applied his brakes and went into a skid.

A second southbound car, driven by Louis Morvan, 14 Center Street, had just cleared the crossing but could not avoid a collision with the Gagne car about 10 feet south of the crossing.

Shunted back into the path of the freight by the impact, the Morvan car was pushed 41 feet west, then tossed off the track. Morvan was unhurt.

Conductor of the freight was Joseph A. Sismard, 383 Montfort Street, Eastview. Damage to the Gagne car was set at \$300 and to the Morvan machine at \$500.

Maybe They're Better Off Even At That!

The moose in the Ottawa Valley are confused these days.

It seems that the new musical whistles on CNR diesels are taken by sensitive moose as mating calls.

With all the impulsiveness of a young lover, the bull moose rush at the diesels to keep their rendezvous and then the railway has to stop the train.

What the CNR is now looking for is a diesel that repels the male moose and lets the trains through on time.

29/05/1953

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Woodlawn

Ottawa Man Injured, Damage heavy As Two Freight Trains In Collision

WOODLAWN A fast CNR freight train late yesterday afternoon plowed into the rear of another freight train here, injuring one train crew member from Ottawa. Woodlawn is 28 miles northwest of Ottawa.

Injured was James A. Mur-dock of 73 Delaware Avenue, engineer of the fast freight. He was taken to Civic Hospital with scalp wounds and possibly other injuries. Other members of the crew, Walter Lardon and F. T. Johnston, both of Ottawa, were suffering from shock.

An eye-witness, R. A Vance of Woodlawn. described the accident as follows:

"We were standing on the platform in front of my general store here and saw the fast freight coming a half - mile back. The way-freight was stopped out front here while the engine was shunting cars onto a siding.

"One of the crew of the way-freight saw the other train coming. He lit up a flare and started running up the track waving it. The fast freight slowed up some, but didn't stop. That fellow was sure trying hard to warn them. I don't think they were expecting the fast freight.

"It plowed through them like match wood. There were splinters flying all over.

"The engine of the fast freight let go from the other cars and turned over on its side and slid down into a 10-foot ditch."

About 10 cars were damaged and derailed. Damage to contents of the freight cars will add considerably to loss, the CNR stated.

Time of the accident was 5 25 p.m. (E.S.T.)

The identity of the crew member who tried to warn the approaching train was not known. Two crew members of the way-train were: W. J. Hammell of 279 Bell Street. Ottawa, engineer; and a conductor, J.D. Cameron of Madawaska, Ont.

The speeding freight train was hauled by engine No. 5291. It was train No. 16.

CNR officials expected to have the track cleared for traffic this morning at 4 a.m. Meanwhile, two trains scheduled to use the line had to be detoured this morning. One was the Western Canada bound No. 1 passenger train, and the other was the No. 103 express. The trains detoured via Pembroke on CPR tracks.

24/06/1953

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Brent

Clear CNR Line After Derailed Near Brent

PEMBROKE. June 24 (Staff) The main CNR Transcontinental line was cleared early this morning of a dozen overturned freight cars derailed near Brent yesterday noon. Brent is 70 miles west of here..

Cause of the derailment of the fast freight has not yet been determined.

None of the five-man crew was injured in the wreck. Four of them were Ottawa residents and one was from Pembroke. The Ottawa men were, Ronald J. McDonell, 268 Main street engineer; Reg Worby, 536 Booth street, brakeman; Roy Brown, 77 Grove avenue, brakeman and Edgar Jowsey, 238 Russell. The conductor Jack McKenzie is from Pembroke.

Train schedules were not disrupted by the derailment.

Eleven of the 12 cars that went off the track were fully loaded. They were carrying grain, lumber and pitch. Most of the cargo was recovered intact.

24/06/1953

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Brent

Derailed Track Block Now Cleared

By Staff Reporter PEMBROKE The tracks of the CNR transcontinental line near Brent, 70 miles west of here, where 12 freight cars were derailed yesterday noon, have now been cleared, according to CNR officials.

Members of the crew were four Ottawa residents, Ronald J. McDonell, 268 Main Street, Edgar Jowsey, 238 Russell Street, fireman, and Conductor Jack McKenzie of Pembroke. No one was injured.

Estimates of the damage are still not available. Officials said the cargo made up of grain, lumber and pitch would be recovered if the cars were not broken.

27/06/1953

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Pembroke

Man Killed Five Hurt At Crossing

PEMBROKE One man was killed and five persons injured, two of them seriously, in a train-car accident on Highway 17, six miles east of Pembroke early this morning. Killed almost instantly was Rene Bedard, 52, Matachewan Ont., reportedly the driver of the eastbound car that crashed into a CNR train, westbound from Ottawa to Brent. Injured and in Pembroke General Hospital are,

En Route To Cornwall

The injured, are all of Matachewan, Ont., and were en- route from their home to Cornwall when the mishap occurred.

The accident happened at 1.20 o'clock this morning on an unguarded level crossing. The train was CNR No. 103, in charge of Conductor Frank Sarault, 87 Pretoria Avenue, Ottawa. Other members of the crew were Engineer G. A. Fournier, 122 Glenora Avenue, Ottawa, and Fireman Tremblay, 108 Sherbrooke Street. Ottawa.

The car struck the engine of the train just under the cab, causing minor damage to the train engine and practically demolishing the front section of the automobile.

The force of the impact swung the automobile completely around and it came to rest, facing in a north-westerly direction with its front at the edge of the road, 39 feet west of the crossing.

Whistle Blowing

Members of the train crew stated that the whistle had been sounded at the proper point and that when the engineer saw the car still some distance away he blew the whistle continuously until the accident occurred.

This was corroborated by Colonial Coach Lines Driver Joseph McBride of Ottawa and Transport Driver Ronald Derbyshire, Toronto, who were westbound on the highway and had stopped east of the crossing to allow the train to pass.

The train was stopped 250 feet west of the crossing.

Police Holding Passenger

Dead Man in Sleeper May be from City

Snow Sifts Down on Blazing Sleeper

18 Escape in Train Blaze at Pembroke

PEMBROKE (Staff) One man, reported to be an Ottawa doctor, but as yet unidentified, was burned to death and 18 other passengers narrowly missed the same fate as a CNR sleeping car burst into flames near here early today.

The sleeper caught fire a few minutes after the CNR's crack No. 1 transcontinental pulled out shortly after 2 a.m. Passengers tumbled in terror from the rear door and several smashed windows. Heroine of the rescue was Mrs. Charles Hoyt of Ottawa, who is credited with saving several lives by smashing a window to safety. Three Ottawans were among those who were saved, although there were some injuries among them. Passengers included:

Details omitted

Passenger Held by Police

Another passenger, Charles Faucault of Noranda, is being held by Ontario Provincial Police following intensive questioning. Late this morning, police took him into custody on a mental illness charge.

Porter on the car. Joseph Bailey of Montreal, also escaped.

Identity of the dead man was still unknown, despite a concerted investigation by railway officials. It is believed that he boarded the train at Ottawa at 11 p.m. yesterday and was travelling to Haileybury. Provincial police identification expert A. G. Wart was on his way to the scene to aid in the investigation.

The car was the last one on a long CNR No. 1, which leaves Montreal and stops at Ottawa and Pembroke. Its run is to Vancouver.

The investigation is being conducted by Cpl. Larry Hartner and Constable J. I. Doney and E. N. Milner of the Pembroke detachment of Provincial Police, Coroner Dr. J. C. Bradley of Pembroke was called. It is expected that an inquest will be held.

The body of the dead man was found, burned beyond recognition, in the rear vestibule of the coach, where he had apparently suffocated. It was here that many of the passengers had jammed the narrow aisle, blocking off escape for those who later got out by the window which Mrs. Hoyt smashed.

The 13 passengers who escaped made their way into the sub-zero weather through the smashed window. Many of them had been sleeping. Several jumped while the train was still moving.

The fire started in the front section of the car. Reports indicated that it started in or near the compartment occupied by Faucault. It spread rapidly in billowing smoke throughout the car, arousing the terrified passengers.

The sleeping car was a complete mass of flames by the time the train came to a stop. The last car on the train, it was the Northern Ontario car of the Trans-Canada flyer. The car is normally detached from the CNR run at North Bay and picked up by the Ontario Northland Railway to proceed on its line to Haileybury. Kirkland Lake, Timmins and other points in that area.

Two Constables Saw The Blaze

Two members of the Pembroke Police. Constables Huntley Munro and R. M. Ritchey were among the first to notice the fire. While on patrol in the town, they noticed a reflection of fire in the sky and set out in its direction. They arrived at the CNR tracks on the southern outskirts of Pembroke and travelled by foot through the freezing weather up the tracks. They met a trainman racing out to find a phone to report the fire.

The call for help was put in from the nearby home of Provincial Constable Martin Brindle in Pembroke. The Pembroke Fire Department responded, taking its equipment to a CNR trestle crossing the Eganville Road. A second locomotive from the Pembroke Junction of the CNR, from where the train had just left, was dispatched. The blazing car was uncoupled and hauled to the trestle, where town firemen took more than three hours to extinguish the flames.

The train was about two miles from the junction when the fire was reported.

Dr. J. H. Joyner of Pembroke was called to attend injured passengers.

The train, carrying all the passengers except the dead man and Faucault, left about 5.15 three hours late.

Just as the belated train pulling out, another small fire, obviously caught by flames from the burned car, was spotted at the rear of the car which had been adjoining it. It was brought under quick control by crew members.

The blaze attracted large numbers of Pembroke residents. They watched from various windy vantage points around the scene.

CNR Issues Statement

MONTREAL (CP) Canadian National Railways officials gave the following account of the fire:

"Reports received from the crew of train No. 1 stated that after the train had left Pembroke junction at 2.15 a.m., Porter J. D. Bailey of Montreal discovered sleeping car Louisburg on fire. This car of all steel construction was on the rear of the train.

"The porter stopped the train and awakened the passengers who were transferred to other cars on the train. All passengers in the sleeper Louisburg were safely accounted for with the exception of one unidentified male passenger who apparently died during the fire.

"The fire apparently started in one of the drawing rooms of the car and the occupant of that room was removed from the train by the Ontario Provincial Police.

"Two passengers were injured. Mrs E. Gauthler of Valgagne, Ont., sustained a broken wrist and G. Zavalkoff of Montreal received a cut on his right foot.

"The train proceeded after a delay of three hours and 14 minutes to its schedule.

"Later on receipt of additional reports, CNR officials said Bailey discovered the fire in the drawing room of the pullman.

"An attempt was made to put out the fire with extinguishers, but the flames spread so rapidly that it was necessary to evacuate the passengers. It was necessary to break the windows to provide means of exit for some of them"

It was in making their way out that Mrs Gauthler and Mr Zavalkoff suffered their injuries.

Train Crew Cleared by Jury

PEMBROKE (Staff) A coroner's jury last night cleared the crew of the Canadian National Railways' crack transcontinental flyer of any criminal negligence in the death of Ottawa doctor Hugh A. Collins.

But added to the verdict was a sharp five-barrelled "rider" calling for sweeping changes in CNR operations and safety precautions.

The jury found the DVA physician met accidental death on Dec. 30 when the sleeping car "Louisburg" was ravaged by fire minutes after it left Pembroke station. They set the cause of death as suffocation and severe burns.

Evidence showed that the engine pulling the flaming sleeper was halted and then - without warning - started due to a mistake in interpreting signals. When the train was stopped for the second time it was beyond the reach of fire equipment from Pembroke.

The five-man jury recommended:

1. That the CNR provide more adequate training and instruction for crews to follow in the event of an emergency.
2. That the company insist that their train crews have a better understanding of signals.
3. That some responsible member of the crew be specially designated to make sure all cars are cleared if such a move is needed,
4. That more adequate fire protection be provided in the trains.
5. That smoking be permitted only in the special smoking compartments.

The Jury took only 45 minutes to reach its verdict, although it required over eight hours to examine the 15 witnesses who testified. Dr. J. C. Bradley, Renfrew County coroner, presided.

Eighteen other passengers escaped the flaming sleeper by climbing to safety through doors and windows.

Evidence at the inquest revealed the startling fact that James Faucault, of Noranda, in whose compartment the fire started, had prophesied that the train might burn before reaching its destination.

Taxi Driver Killed When Car Hits Train

PEMBROKE, March 22. -Ellard Moriarty, a 21-year-old Pembroke taxi driver, was killed and his passenger, Mrs. Joseph Pappin of RR 1, Pembroke, is in hospital in serious condition after the taxi in which they were travelling, collided with a CNR freight train at level crossing seven miles east of here late Saturday afternoon.

Witnesses said the taxi, east-bound on Highway 17, crashed into the side of the engine of the slow moving, 70-car freight as it crossed the highway.

Moriarty apparently did not see the train until too late and was not able to stop his car on the icy road. The level crossing is not protected by an automatic warning signal.

Mrs. Pappin was apparently thrown through the windshield of the taxi by the force of impact and suffered head and facial injuries, a fractured hip and undetermined internal injuries.

The taxi, owned by Terminal Taxi of Pembroke, was demolished. Moriarty suffered fatal head injuries and was rushed to Pembroke Hospital where he died Saturday night.

Both conductor A. Wilson and engineer J. R. Jolicoeur, both of Ottawa, said the usual warning whistles had been sounded as their train approached the level crossing travelling west. The engine of the train was partially across the road when the car struck it.

The injured were treated at - the scene by Dr. L. D. Cotnam of Pembroke.

OPP Corporal Larry Gartner and Constable Ted Baginski investigated the accident.

An inquest is likely.

From the Citizen, same date. Train was extra 9062 west.

28/06/1954 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Pembroke***CNR Freight Derailed At Pembroke**

PEMBROKE (Staff) Railroad wrecking crews worked in windy, rainy weather all day Sunday, clearing the transcontinental line of the Canadian National Railways blocked since late Saturday night when an east-bound freight train was derailed.

A total of 16 cars of the extra freight left the tracks about three miles east of Pembroke, but no injuries resulted from the derailment.

Passenger and freight traffic was flowing normally through here Sunday however, with trains being rerouted, some on the Canadian Pacific Railway lines and some on another; CNR line which goes from Pembroke to Golden Lake, there joining the line to Ottawa.

The engine and front end of the train did not leave the track but the 16 cars and tank cars were strewn along the right of way.

Creates Pond

The derailment occurred in cut with high embankments on each side. The derailed box cars apparently blocked the passage of torrent of water and converted the derailment area practically into a pond.

Mobile gasoline powered pumps were brought to the scene to pump the water out of the depression and speed clearing up operations.

Wrecking crews from Ottawa and Brent were sent to the scene and with huge cranes working from each end of the derailment, cars were being replaced on the tracks at each end Sunday afternoon.

Officials at the scene gave no cause for the derailment but it was felt that the heavy rains and high winds of Saturday night's storm may have caused a washout.

Several small washouts were reported along the track inside Pembroke.

Pembroke and district residents attracted to the scene drove as far as possible in a farm yard and then trekked through a muddy field to reach the scene of clearing operations.

Caption to Picture

Mass Derailment At Pembroke- No less than 18 cars of a west-bound transcontinental freight train jumped the tracks near Pembroke at 9 o'clock Saturday night. No one was injured. A sudden cloudburst washed out the ground under the tracks about 3 miles east of Pembroke causing the accident. The cars were sandwiched into a 100 yard track length. Photo by Montaigne

09/07/1954 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Bells Corners***Driver hurt as train hits truck**

Gerald Cummings, 27, of Stittsville, Ont., suffered serious multiple fractures Thursday afternoon when his three-ton dump truck was struck by a CNR train at Bells Corners.

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Police reported that the young man was travelling east on the Base Line Road when the back end of his truck was struck by a train at an intersection.

The impact drove the truck into the ditch where it came to rest on its left side, a complete wreck.

The engine, No. 3200, was pulling empty passenger coaches at the time of the accident.

The crossing is marked with a white cross sign

James Murdock of 73 Delaware Avenue was the engineer and Samuel G. Anderson of 38 Merritt Avenue was the conductor.

Constable Ken Latham of the Ottawa detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police investigated.

16/08/1954 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Pembroke***Hit By Train Pembroke Youth Serious**

PEMBROKE (Staff) A Pembroke youth was still in an unconscious condition here last night in hospital after being struck by a train last evening.

In Pembroke Cottage Hospital in serious condition is Kenneth McKibbin, 24 Craig Street, Pembroke, who is unconscious and suffering from a broken right arm, facial injuries, bruised right leg and possible head injuries. McKibbin was struck about 7.55 p.m. Sunday approximately one half mile west of the CNR junction on the outskirts of Pembroke. He was hit by an eastbound freight proceeding from Brent to Ottawa.

Following the accident he was taken to hospital where he is under the care of Dr. H. B. Cotnam.

Conductor John P. Sloan, 77 Delaware Avenue, Ottawa, was in charge of the train while the engineer was Lloyd Henderson, 49 Geneva Street, Ottawa.

Police are still investigating the mishap. It is thought that the youth was standing or sitting on the edge of the tracks at the time. Investigation is being conducted by Sergeant Gerald Johnston and Constable R. M. Ritchie, Pembroke Police.

20/06/1955 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Alice***Ottawa Man Injured Near Alice Station**

PEMBROKE (Staff) An Ottawa man, Steven Dillon, 42, is in "very serious" condition and a companion, Roger Forget, about 35, an itinerant worker, is also in hospital following an accident near here early Sunday morning.

Mr. Dillon, who is employed with a CNR work crew at Alice Station, 10 miles south of Pembroke, is suffering from stomach, back, internal and arm injuries and authorities said Sunday that his condition was very serious. Mr. Forget is in fair condition, suffering from head injuries.

Police believe that the men were hit by a train while walking on the CNR tracks near Alice Station.

It is believed that they were walking on the right of way en route to their quarters in the work train, some distance from Alice, when they were struck by an as yet undetermined train.

The two men were found by another CNR employe, Frank McCloane, a native of Eastern Canada, and police were notified early Sunday morning.

The two men were rushed to Pembroke General Hospital where they are under the care of Dr. J. A. O'Connor.

Corporal H. H. Peever and Constable P. V. Holtham, provincial police, Pembroke, are conducting the investigation.

Car Damaged In Brush With Locomotive

A car driven by John S. Partingdon, 41, of 29 Ivy Avenue, got off with light damage in a brush with a CNR locomotive at the Hurdmans Bridge crossing early this morning.

He told police that he was travelling south on Riverside Drive and slammed on his brakes to stop inches away from a shunting freight train.

Three cars rolled by without as much as scratching the auto, when it was caught by a projection from the backing locomotive. Damage to the car was estimated at \$150. Mr. Partingdon escaped unhurt.

The engine was in charge of Kenneth MacDonald, of 272 Byron Avenue.

20/02/1956 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg***Four High School Students Die As Auto Loses Race At Level Crossing**

PORTAGE DU FORT Four High school students died when their car lost a race to beat a freight train to the CNR level crossing here about 3.15 p.m. Sunday.

Portage du Fort, Que., is 45 miles northwest of Ottawa.

The four youths were travelling to Bryson, Que., for an afternoon hockey game.

The victims:

Harold Knudson, 19, of Douglas, driver of the car.

Elroy Zohr, 17, of Eganville.

John Hunt, 16, of Eganville.

Calvin Fiebig, 17, of Eganville.

The first three died instantly. Young Fiebig was found alive at the crash scene, was rushed to Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville and died early Monday morning, less than 10 hours after the crash. He suffered a fractured skull, two fractured legs, a fractured arm and multiple cuts.

Thrown 150 Feet

The east-bound, 36-car freight struck the 1949 north-bound car broadside, scattering bodies and parts of the car for distances up to 150 feet.

The engineer, George Fournier of 122 Glenora Avenue, Ottawa, told police he was approaching the crossing at about .40 to 50 miles per hour and blew his whistle twice before the crossing.

Noticed Car Racing

He noticed one car stopped at the crossing waiting for his train to pass and, at the same time, a north-bound car approaching from the other side, racing to beat the train.

He blew his whistle a third time and applied the emergency brake. The heavy train could not stop in time, however, and it plowed into the car, hitting it broadside and demolishing it as the bodies flew out of the wreckage.

Occupants of the car stopped at the crossing were Mr. and Mrs Emillo Lemaire and Earl Sparling, all of Bryson, Que. They told the same story of the accident as the engineer of the train. Their car was stopped because the occupants had heard the train whistle.

Dr. S. E. McDowell of Shawville, called to the scene of the accident, said only young Fiebig was alive when he arrived. He administered first aid to the young man and had him rushed to the Shawville hospital.

Will Hold Inquest

Coroner Dr. John A. Bradshaw of Campbell's Bay, who viewed the bodies, said an inquest will be held.

The level-crossing, on a straight stretch of snow-covered gravel road, is marked with a stationary sign, but has no wigwag.

However, skies were cloudy and police said a line of trees west of the road hampered visibility from the direction from which the train was approaching.

The train was held up for about an hour and 20 minutes by the crash. None of the train crew was hurt. Police said damage to the train was minor.

S. G. Anderson of 38 Merritt Street was the conductor on the train.

Detective Andre Audet of Campbell's Bay and Traffic Officer John Richardson of Shawville, both of the Quebec Provincial Police, investigated the accident.

20/07/1956 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg***Man Escapes As Train Strikes Car**

A 25-year-old Ottawa airman escaped without serious injury when a 50-car CNR freight train struck his stalled car and hurled it into a Hydro pole early this morning.

Guy Laroche, of 237 St. Patrick Street, was taken to Civic Hospital with a fractured right knee and possible head injuries, and later transferred to the RCAF hospital at Rockcliffe.

The accident occurred at 3.40 a.m. at the Bowesville Road level crossing. Although Mr Laroche was not seriously hurt, his car was wrecked.

Lawrence Maloney, 89 Belmont Avenue, engineer of the freight, said he was travelling east toward the Walkley Road yards at about 15 miles per hour. His

fireman, Steve Brennae, of 674 Churchill Avenue, saw the auto approach the tracks and stall, and yelled to the engineer, but the heavy train could not be stopped in time.

The impact knocked Mr. Laroche's car about 50 feet into a Hydro pole on the Bowesville Road right-of-way. Both the front and rear of the car were smashed.

Constabel [sic] Archie Robertson investigated the accident.

23/08/1956 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg***Brush With death**

A collision with a train at Woodroffe last night left the car shown above in this crumpled mess. Its driver, Roger Crete, 24, of Deschenes Street, Ottawa, escaped with facial lacerations. Mr. Crete had his windows closed and did not hear the train's warning bell. Photo by Newton

21/11/1956 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Pembroke***Freight Hits car, Two Hurt**

PEMBROKE (Staff) Two persons escaped with minor injuries in a level-crossing accident here last night.

Roy Brazeau, 18, of 95B Pembroke Street West, was driving a late model car northward across the CNR tracks at MacKay Street when a slow-moving freight train struck the vehicle. A diesel engine was pushing two box cars westward when the first car struck and dragged the automobile a few yards.

Injured was Mrs. Cecile Labelle, 39, of 142 Joseph Street, a passenger in the car, who suffered a broken arm. Her daughter Cecile, 14, also a passenger, suffered shock. Both were taken to Pembroke Hospital for treatment and released.

Damage to the Brazeau car was estimated at \$600.

The accident was investigated by Inspector Bert Dickey and Sjrt. Lome Sullivan of the Pembroke police.

Close to 100 in miraculous escape as train hits truck.

Ten cars spill off the track at 55 mph clip.

The CNR's eastbound Continental today knifed into a braking tractor-trailer at a level crossing on the city's outskirts, derailing a two-unit diesel and ten cars.

About 75 passengers and about 15 crew members aboard were violently shaken up. Damage was estimated at \$1,000,000.

The smash left a 300-yard tangle of wreckage and scattered cars at a crossing just north of Bells Corners.

Further Reports, Pictures C Page 7.

It was incredible that there was no loss of life or serious injury. .

Both the train and the tractor-trailer - the latter was northbound on Highway No. 15 - were heading towards Ottawa at the time of the 6.05 a.m. crash.

The train - the CNR's Continental due to arrive at Union Station at 6.35 a.m. - was travelling at about 55 miles per hour, the conductor, Daniel J. Pickett, of Capreol, Ont., told *The Citizen*.

Evert Bergsma, of St. Anne's, Ont., 33-year-old driver of the heavy vehicle owned by Zavitz Bros. Ltd., of Wainfleet, Ont., escaped unscathed from the accident which drew thousands to the scene.

15,000 tins of baby food.

Included among the 75 passengers who were abruptly jolted out of their sleep were more than a score of wives and children who were proceeding to Halifax enroute to join their husbands and fathers serving with NATO forces in Europe. They were due to leave Halifax on the liner *Scythia* on Saturday.

Spread along the railway roadbed for more than 100 yards on either side of the crossing were the contents of more than 500 unit cases of canned baby food, valued at about \$4,000. The 15-ton cargo of the tractor-trailer comprised 15,000 tins of the baby food.

The crash came after the tractor-trailer came to a stop on the tracks in spite of the efforts of the driver to bring it to a halt in time. The driver blamed the vehicle's brakes for the truck's position on the tracks.

Still shaking an hour after his harrowing experience, Mr. Bergsma recounted for the *Citizen* what he could recall of the moments leading up to the crash.

"I was moving along at a normal rate of speed, when I suddenly noticed the train looming up to my left. My first thought was to put on my brakes. By that time the train was practically upon me.

"But my brakes refused to work."

The driver's miraculous escape from death resulted from the fact that the train struck the vehicle near the point where the tractor section connects with the heavy trailer.

The smash literally cut the tractor, housing the driver, away from the trailer and left it practically undamaged. The cab and its occupant landed upright on the highway just to the north of the tracks. The major portion of the tractor was located about 100 feet east of the highway on the Bells Corners side of the crossing. The other part was found on the opposite side of the crossing.

Only three minor injuries.

Injuries - all minor in nature - were sustained by only three of those on the train.

The engineer, Dean C. Burrill, of 1054 Apolydor Avenue, Ottawa, received small cuts to the face and hands but was able to go home after the mishap.

J. F. MacLean, the baggageman, whose home is in Capreol, Ont., received a bruised arm, and William Evans, 37, a seaman enroute from Vancouver to Hali-I fax, suffered a wrist injury.

The only one to be treated in hospital was Evans who was released from the Civic Hospital as soon as he was attended to. CNR officials estimated that the arduous job of clearing the line would be completed by 6 p.m. and service would then be resumed over that section.

Meanwhile, the CNR's Super-Continental, due to arrive in Ottawa at 2.50 p.m., was rerouted at North Bay to run over the CPR line to the Capital. All CNR locals are temporarily running over the CNR's Renfrew Valley section from Barry's Bay. The crash occurred on a level crossing located on a straight, dry stretch of road about 500 yards north of the Bells Corners intersection. There was a regular "railway crossing" sign at the crossing but no wig-wag.

The scene in the vicinity of the crossing was one of wreckage and confusion born out of fantastic circumstances.

All of the cars and the two diesel engines were derailed.

Just three of the cars three sleepers and the dinette remained upright adjacent to the torn up section of track. The day coach was in a near-upright position but came to rest about 15 feet from the track.

The train left Capreol at 10.45 p.m. where it picked up passengers transferred to it from a train travelling east from Western Canada.

The transfer of passengers from the twisted cars to Colonial Coach buses for transport to Union station was completed before 8 o'clock.

There was little panic by those concerned. Mrs. H. A. Smith, whose address was given as Ottawa, and her sister, Mrs. P. J. Slaght, of Cobalt, Ont, was concerned about the body of their mother which was in a casket in the baggage car. The casket was later removed for transfer to Montreal. Other members of the crew, in addition to the conductor, Dean Burrill, of 1054 Apolydor Avenue, Ottawa, engineman; George Burns, of 571 Somerset Street, fireman; Allan Irwin of Capreol, trainman; and J. F. Mac-Lean, of Capreol, baggage man.

OPP Sgt. Edwin Richardson and Constables Ray Miller and Bill McGinnis, all of the Ottawa detachment, were at the scene shortly after the crash.

CNR Engineer Dean C. Surrill is resting at his Apolydor avenue home today after a train-truck wreck beyond his understanding.

He said a tractor-trailer passed a stopped car at the Bell's Corners level crossing this morning to straddle the tracks when the East bound Continental was signalling its approach.

"I could hardly believe my eyes", the engineer told *The Journal*. "We didn't have a chance.

"I saw a car attached to a small trailer stopped at the crossing. The transport pulled around the car and into the level crossing. It was astounding."

Mr. Burrill advised Provincial Police of the situation as he saw it and disclaimed all responsibility for the derailment.

"I slammed on the brakes but we travelled for several hundred yards", he said. The 43-year-old engineer has been an employe of the CNR for 15 years and an engineer for eight years. Some witnesses said they I overheard the truck driver say his brakes failed and he was forced to swing around the car in a bid to clear the tracks.

Asked about it some hours later, his reply was a noncommittal "Could be!"

He said, he had been instructed by his superiors and insurance officials to say nothing of the crash.

George Burns, the fireman, said he did not realize anything was going to happen until a split second before the crash occurred.

Swerved to avoid car at crossing.

Several lives possibly were saved at Bells Corners yesterday morning when transport truck driver Evert Bergsma, 33, of Wellandport, Ont., realizing his brakes were useless, swerved past a stopped passenger car rather than push it into the path of the CNR's crack Continental passenger train.

As a result of this quick-trigger thinking, the Ottawa-bound train crashed into the end of the 15-ton transport Bergsma was driving. Ten coaches were derailed but, miraculously, no one was killed. Three persons suffered minor injuries.

Statement

The driver's explanation for the crash, was revealed today by John Grace, legal counsel for Zaviti Brothers of Wainfleet, Ont, owners of the tractor trailer which was on lease to Secord Transport of Fonthill.

Bergsma's statement maintained that the truck brakes failed as he was slowing down behind the passenger car, which had stopped at the crossing for the diesel-powered train which was approaching the Ottawa suburbs at 55 miles an hour.

To avoid pushing the car into the path of the locomotive, Bergsma made a quick decision to pull out and attempt to get across the crossing before the train arrived. He stated that he knew his brakes were useless and this was his only alternative. The train was travelling at 55 mph.

This sequence of events was substantiated by train engineer Dean C, Burrill, 43, of Ottawa who said that the tractor-trailer entered the level crossing after swinging out to pass an automobile stopped for the train,

"We didn't have a chance," he said. "The truck went around the stopped car. I slammed on the locomotive brakes but we travelled for several hundred yards before the train stopped."

There was such an impact that parts of the steel siding of the truck trailer were welded to the front of the diesel cab.

Bergsma told his legal counsel that he believed there were several persons in the car which he swerved around.

Regular traffic over the damaged line was resumed at four o'clock this morning, 22 hours after the crash.

A CNR emergency crew worked continuously throughout yesterday and last night to clear the right-of-way of the 10 damaged coaches and replace 100 yards of rail and roadbed torn up in the crash. Auxiliary trains, complete with huge grappling hooks, were brought in from Capreol and Montreal,

Six coaches and the two damaged diesel units still are along the trackside but will be removed later today. All units will be "shopped" in Ottawa or Montreal for complete inspection and repair, where needed. All coaches and both diesel units will be salvagable.

Normal vehicular traffic was resumed on Highway 15 at 2.30 this morning after the last of the toppled coaches was lifted out of the way.

While the Ottawa-North Bay mainline was being put back into service all CNR trains were rerouted over the CPR mainline as far as Pembroke, then back onto the CNR line into North Bay.

The first train to resume regular service this morning was the east-bound Continental, the sister train to the one involved in yesterday morning's crash.

Ontario Provincial Police officers are back at the scene today completing their investigation, but a report will not be submitted for Crown Attorney consideration until the probe is completed.

19/03/1957 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**brent*

CN Train Derailed In Algonquin Park

PEMBROKE, March 1. (Staff) A broken rail near Brent, 74 miles west of here, derailed the CNR westbound Continental train at 4 a.m. today.

No one was injured

The train carried 240 passengers including, a number who boarded at Ottawa last night. Majority of the passengers were Hungarian refugees bound for the Winnipeg area. Ten cars jumped the tracks in Algonquin Nations! Park at a section inaccessible by road. Three of the cars were tilted a dangerous angle, prevented toppling over by the rest of the train. Two diesel units and eight cars passed the break and remained on the tracks.

It was the second derailment of the Continental in three weeks. Last February 28, the eastbound train struck a transport at the Highway 15 crossing near Bells Corners. Ten cars were derailed. But only three minor injuries were reported.

A special train picked up the travellers at the scene of this morning's derailment and continued the journey after a delay of about six hours.

CNR spokesmen said east bound traffic, including the crack Super Continental, will be re-routed on CPR tracks from North Bay.

There was little chance of repairs being made before the end of the day.

Work crews are to be flown to the scene by the Department of Lands and Forests. Others can reach the area by special train from North Bay.

Cause of the broken rail was not immediately known.

Officials were relieved that no injuries had been reported among crew or passengers.

19/03/1957 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Bent*

Ten Cars Of Train Off Rails 210 Passengers Escape Injury

NORTH BAY (Special) Ten cars of the westbound Canadian National Railways "Continental" passenger train were derailed just before dawn today on a lonely stretch of main line track in Algonquin Park, near Brent, 61 miles east of North Bay.

Only Shaken Up.

None of the 240 passengers aboard the train was injured, but most of them got a shaking when the cars jumped the track ripping up ties, rails and roadbed.

Six of the cars, which included sleepers, diner, and the observation car at the end of the train, were tipped over but did not fall.

A relief train was sent from North Bay at 6.40 a.m. to pick up the passengers and bring them here. It arrived here shortly before noon.

Details of the derailment were still sparse but CNR officials said they believed a broken rail caused the missnap.

The two diesel locomotives and the first eight cars of the train passed safely over the break, but the remaining ten were derailed.

Second In 24 Hours

It was the second derailment on that section of CNR line in 24 hours. Monday three cars of a freight train spilled off the track west of Brent, about six miles from the scene of today's accident. There were no injuries in the freight derailment and railway crews repaired the line in ten hours.

This morning's Continental was the first west-bound passenger train to pass over the line since that time.

The train, running from Montreal to Vancouver, left Ottawa at 10.45 p.m. Monday. The derailment occurred at 4 a.m. today, half way between Pembroke and North Bay.

Other CNR trains are being re-routed over CPR lines between North Bay and Pembroke until the derailment has been cleared and tracks repaired, possibly sometime late this afternoon or tonight.

From the air, this morning, crew men could be seen swarming about the nine cars of the passenger train which are still blocking the main line. Six cars at the easterly end were lying, some on their side, and some partly upright. The last three coaches appeared to be still sitting on the tracks.

Charmed Life (with picture)

For the second time within three weeks Daniel Pickett of Capreol has been the conductor of a CNR train involved in a wreck but, remarkably, without loss of life or injury to any of its passengers. Mr. Pickett was conductor on the Continental which was derailed on the Ottawa-North Bay mainline near Brent early this morning. On February 28 he was conductor on the Ottawa-bound Continental which hit a trailer truck at Bells Corners, an Ottawa suburb. In both cases several cars were derailed. Photo by Newton

Clipped from The Ottawa Citizen, 19 Mar 1957, Tue, Page 1

Train Hit Car, Driver Slightly Hurt

An Ottawa man escaped serious injury when thrown from his car as it was struck by a CNR freight train at a Smyth Road level crossing near Alta Vista Drive shortly after 6.30 p.m. Friday. The car was wrecked.

General Hospital officials said the condition of Harry Torontow, 53, of 1536 Carling Avenue, this morning was "good."

Not Badly Hurt

He suffered slight facial cuts and bruises and possible broken ribs when his auto was spun around and dragged nearly 50 feet by the slow-moving train which was headed for the Walkley Yards. He was tossed from the right door, farthest from the driver's seat

The vehicle was heading towards Alta Vista on the Smyth Road from the River Road when hit by the diesel engine. There is no electrical signal at the two-track crossing.

An air hose on the train was broken in the collision and it was held up for nearly half an hour. The train crew was made up of John Biernaskie, 490 Metcalfe Street, foreman; Edgar D. Olive, 214 Metcalfe Street, engineer; Patrick Denney, 245 Preston Road, fireman.

Constable Don Tinsley is investigating.

Loud Radio, Inadequate Signs, blamed for Death at Crossing.

At an inquest last night into the (eve)-eroding death on May 4, of Mrs. Rita Aubry, 42, a coroner's jury strongly recommended that warning signs should be installed immediately at the Billings Avenue crossing where the tragedy occurred.

In its findings the jury also expressed the view that the fatality might have been averted had the car's windows been open and the radio turned down.

Mrs. Aubry died when the small European car driven by her husband, Jean Sylvio Aubry of 38 Somerset Street West, the driver, and her son John, 7, was struck by a CNR diesel freight locomotive at the Billings Avenue crossing. Her skull was fractured when she was thrown from the vehicle after it struck a railway warning sign following its collision with the train.

John Aubry testified that the car's radio had been "pretty loud" just before the crash. Other witnesses commented on the lack of adequate crossing warning signs and said only two signs exist quite close to the double tracks. Another warning had stood back about 300 feet but had fallen down nearly three years ago and wasn't replaced. They testified that the train's whistle was blowing before the collision.

In its verdict the jury mentioned the radio's volume, but added that "in view of increased population in this vicinity (Billings Avenue) it is recommended that railway crossing signs should be installed at both ends of the crossing indicating that there are two tracks ahead."

Assistant Crown Attorney Dan Chilcott questioned witnesses and Coroner Dr. Harold Dover presided at the inquest.

Would Close Crossing

A proposal from the Canadian National Railway that traffic signals be installed at the Billings Avenue crossing, and that the Pleasant Park Road crossing in Alta Vista be closed did not win the complete approval of Board of Control yesterday afternoon.

Following the death of Mrs. Rita Aubrey, in a car-train collision at the Billings Avenue crossing on April 4, the board suggested to the Board of Transport Commissioners that traffic signals should be installed at the crossing.

The transport board took it up with both the CNR and the CPR, whose lines cross at Billings Avenue. The CNR, in a letter to Board of Control, agreed to traffic control signals going in at Billings Avenue. But the railway suggested that the Pleasant Park Road crossing, 500 feet away, be closed and that the city construct access roads, on both sides of the railway, from that point to the Billings Avenue crossing.

Mayor Nelms said that of the two crossings the Pleasant Park Road one was by far the busier.

The board passed the CNR proposal over to Traffic Engineer W. W. Rankin, and Planning and Works Director Frank Ayres for consideration.

Approve RR Signal At Bells Corners

An automatic warning signal will be installed at the Canadian National Railways crossing on Highway 15 at Bells Corners, Nepean Township council learned last night

The crossing was the scene of a spectacular crash last February, in which a train ploughed into a large tractor-trailer. No one was hurt. In the crash, although several cars were derailed and goods were scattered for many yards along the track

A letter from the Board of Transport Commissioners, authorizing installation of the signals, was read at last night's council meeting.

Sixty percent of the cost will be borne by a special federal fund for railway crossing improvement, 25 percent by the Ontario Department of Highways and the remaining 15 percent by the CNR.

Two Injured As Car, Train In Collision

A young man and woman narrowly escaped death last night when their 1957 auto was in collision with a train at Dollers Crossing on Riverside Drive. Warning criss-cross arms were missing from the sign at the crossing.

Treated at Civic Hospital were: Lucien Grenier, 26, an intern in Quebec City formerly of 1389 Bank Street, who had head cuts, abrasions and shock; and Miss Patsy Quinn, 17, of RR 1 Billings Bridge, a nursing trainee at the Civic, who suffered a severe head gash, cuts to her hands and shock. Both were admitted and are in satisfactory condition.

Police said the car, being driven east on Riverside Drive towards Ottawa by Grenier, was in collision with a CNR freight train that was backing up in a northerly direction. The auto struck the tender of the long freight, just back of the engine, demolishing the entire front end of the spanking new car.

The crossing has no wig-wag signal and the customary criss-cross sign on the west side of the tracks has been partially missing for some time, leaving only a warning that "something" was approaching. Residents of the area have complained to the city about the condition but nothing has yet been done.

Engineer of the freight, Daniel Kelly of 33 Clegg Street, told police he had his whistle blowing and was travelling about five mph at the time of the collision.

Miss Quinn was treated at the scene by Dr. D. H. Niblett of RCAF Uplands.

An Uplands base ambulance took the injured to hospital.

17/12/1957

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Smyth Road

CNR Diesel Smashes Truck, Driver Is Critically Injured.

A 16-car CNR diesel freight train sliced into an 18-ton pre-mix concrete truck at a Smyth Road level crossing this morning, critically injuring the driver and also sending the two occupants of the train locomotive to hospital. Total damage was estimated at upwards of \$20,000.

Dennis Guindon, 26, of 72 Sabourin Street, Gatineau Mills, is unconscious in the Civic Hospital, where a team of surgeons is fighting to save his life. He suffered grave head and facial injuries. Guindon was driving the concrete-laden truck owned by Ottawa Pre-Mixed Concrete Ltd.

David Drew, 23, of 33 Glencairn Avenue, yard helper on the train, was released from the General Hospital following treatment for head cuts and bruises, while Edgar Olive, 41, of 214 Metcalfe Street, engineer, is still undergoing X-ray examination to determine the extent of his injuries.

Three other occupants of the cab, Charles Lee, of 552 Churchill Avenue, fireman, T. B. Miller, 646 Coronation Drive, and J. H. Turner, 523 Bathurst Avenue, escaped without injury.

They had a close brush with death in a harrowing experience. An official of the CNR said that he had never seen a yard engine with such extensive damage following a level crossing accident.

"I'll never know how we got out of that one," stated Drew, while undergoing hospital treatment.

Scene of the 8 a.m. crash was a level crossing that runs parallel to a CPR right-of-way on Smyth Road, just north of Riverside Drive. Smyth Road was designated a through truck route just a few months ago. The crossing was bathed in bright sunlight at the time.

It was the third major train-vehicle crash to occur at the crossing in the past two years.

At nearby Billings Avenue there was a fatal level crossing accident in the early fall.

Yard Transfer Train

The eastbound train a yard transfer carrying freight from the Walkley Road terminal to the downtown central depot ground to a halt some 1,100 feet from the scene of the crash.

The truck, laden with some 10-ton of liquid concrete, was northbound on Smyth Road at the time, proceeding from its Russell Road plant to a construction job in the northerly section of the city.

So heavy was the impact that the cab of the truck ended up more than 100 feet along the right of way to the east and north of the crossing. The heavy bulb-shaped tank carrying the concrete was thrown some 35 feet from the main section of the truck.

The front of the diesel locomotive was twisted out of shape. The engineer's side of the cab was so dented that bystanders wondered how any of the five men inside it had ever got out.

Molten concrete splattered the home and car of Thomas Davey, located nearly 100 yards to the north of the crash.

"We were eating breakfast when we heard this loud explosion," recalled Mrs. Davey, "and we looked outside. We thought somebody must have been dead."

Ambulance Close By

An Exclusive Ambulance, which was travelling just behind the pre-mix concrete truck, was on the scene seconds after the crash. Mr. Davey assisted the ambulance driver in placing the injured truck driver in the ambulance for conveyance to hospital. Police took the other injured to hospital. Also helping the injured was Patrick Flannery of 202 Cluny Avenue.

The CNR and CPR crossings are on a straight stretch of Smyth Road and are marked by "railway crossing" signs and yellow Department of Highways railway markers. The road was paved during the summer.

Caption to Photos (shows CNR 8051)

SCENE OF TANGLED WRECKAGE AT CROSSING

This is what the CNR level crossing just north of Riverside Drive on the Smyth Road looked like this morning after a train-truck crash that critically injured the truck driver and sent two others to hospital. At left, onlookers view the bulb-shaped body of an 18-ton Ottawa Pre-Mixed Concrete Ltd. truck after it was thrown some 35 feet by the violent impact. Dennis Guindon, 26, of 72 Sabourin Street, Gatineau, the operator of the truck, is in critical condition in the General Hospital. Only two of the five occupants of the diesel locomotive went to hospital for treatment. But a glimpse of the battered cab, at right, graphically points up what a close brush with death they had. Newton Associates Photos

20/01/1958

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Bells Corners

Gananoque Youth Killed In Car-Train Collision

A car slammed into a freight train at a highway 15 level crossing near Bells Cornes last night killing a youth and seriously injuring his companion/ Gary David Campeau. 18. of 17 King Street. Gananoque. was killed instantly when the auto struck the front section of a CNR diesel engine shortly before 6 o'clock.

He was a front-seat passenger in a late-model car driven by John Kidd. 21. of 83 Charles Street. Gananoque.

Kidd suffered multiple body injuries and both his legs and one arm were broken. He is being treated at Civic Hospital where his condition is described is "serious."

Drove Friend Home

The car bounced back more than 10 feet after striking the train. The vehicle's front end was sliced off.

17/02/1958

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Heron Road

Two Escape Train-Car Collision

Illegible

25/02/1958

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Beachburg

Three Taken to Hospital After Car-Train Collide

14/05/1958

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Alice

Man Injured When Struck By Train

PEMBROKE (Special) Anthony Etmanskie, 23 - year old Wilno, Ont., bush worker, is in Pembroke General Hospital with a fractured leg and facial lacerations suffered when he was struck by a train near here Tuesday afternoon.

Etmanskie, employed by Shoosplin Wood, Ltd., of Pembroke, in operations near the scene of the accident, was crossing a railway bridge over the Indian River, one mile south of Alice Station, in turn 10 miles south of Pembroke, when he was struck.

Details are vague, but it is believed he was knocked from the bridge by a slow-moving CNR freight train.

02/07/1958

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Heron Road

Man Injured As Train Wrecks Truck

A Heron Road train-car crash sent one man to hospital and completely demolished a stake pick-up truck early Dominion Day.

Held in hospital for cuts, scrapes and possible internal injuries is Gerald Stewart of 322 Powell Avenue. He was proceeding east on Heron Road when the truck was struck by the Canadian National Railways crack train No. 4 bound from Vancouver to Ottawa.

Engineer of the train, George Fournier, 63, of 122 Glenora Avenue said he had sounded all the usual whistles for the crossing.

Stewart's truck was loaded with empty oil cans and police said the noise of the cans in the rear might have drowned out the sound of the whistle.

The truck was considered a total wreck and slight damage was done to the side of the engine.

27/11/1958

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Riverside Drive

Man Hurt As Truck, Train Hit

A truck driver escaped serious injury after his machine struck a locomotive and was knocked down a steep embankment of the Rideau River this morning. The accident occurred about 11.30 a.m. at the Riverside Drive-Hurdman's Bridge crossing. William Radmore, 23, of 221 Holland Avenue, was taken to St. Louis Marie de Montfort Hospital with head lacerations and a suspected fracture of the left leg. His condition is not critical. Radmore had been driving east on Riverside Drive. His truck struck the locomotive behind the front wheel assembly. The impact spun his machine sideways and smashed it down a sharp slope leading to the River. The truck travelled about 10 yards, then came to rest a few feet from the water. City Police Constables Grant Williams and Roger Pepper investigated the accident. The crossing is protected by a red warning flasher.

08/12/1958

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Heron Road

Car-Train Crash

sJamef C. Warner, 96.Mlailes Avenue, had a narrow escape from death Saturday morning when his car was struck by a Canadian National engine at the CNR-Heron Road crossing. Mr. Warner escaped injury when his car skidded in front of the engine driven by Engineer Edgar Olive. 214 Metcale Street, but the vehicle suffered damage of \$1,000. The front end of the car was demolished.

09/02/1959

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Pleasant Park

Snowbank Blocks View At Tracks,
Train Clips Car

"I'm thankful to be alive."

With these words, a 41-year-old RCAF sergeant today summed up his spine tingling experience when the crack CNR Super-continental plowed into the rear of his auto at the Pleasant Park Road crossing Saturday afternoon.

George Waddell of 1577 Digby Street, with the Air Materjel Command for the past six months, escaped unharmed, but his 12-year-old son, a passenger in the front seat, suffered a slight bump on his forehead. (Digby Street is in the " south-east end of the city three west of the Russell Road.)

They were driving home along Pleasant Park Road when they suddenly became involved in an accident which could have brought death or serious injury.

Too Icy To Halt Skid

There are no automatic wig-wags at this crossing, and snow was swirling in front of the car. A 10-foot-high snowbank apparently blocked Mr.- Waddell's view of the approaching train.

According to police, Mr. Waddell attempted to brake his vehicle on the slight, icy incline leading to the tracks. Police said when he reached the track and saw the- train, he accelerated the car in an effort to get off the tracks. He almost made it. A scant foot of the rear of his car remained on the rails as the train, travelling at about 40 miles an hour, struck the vehicle.

The force of the impact turned Mr. Waddell's car completely around facing the Ottawa-bound train. The rear of Mr. Waddell's vehicle was damaged to the extent of about \$400. The only damage to the double-diesel-drawn train was a broken air hose on the front of the first locomotive.

"He almost made it," said Robert Canning of 12 Burn-ham Street, engineer on the train. "Another few seconds and he would have been able to clear the track completely. The engine just clipped the rear of the car."

Ralph Johnston of 448 Tweedsmuir Avenue, fireman on the train, said: "In accordance with regulations, we had both the whistle and bell sounding steadily from the time we were within a quarter of a mile of the crossing until we had passed it. We (engineer and fireman) both saw the car on the tracks and the engineer applied the emergency brakes. For a while we didn't think he (Mr. Waddell) was going to make it. He and his son were very lucky to come out of it alive."

Conductor of the train was Lloyd Armstrong of 1404 Merivale Road.

The train was delayed for about 20 minutes before it was able to proceed into Ottawa, nearing the end of Its transcontinental trip from Vancouver.

Constable Wilmer Dowd of the city police investigated.

24/02/1959

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Train Wrecks Truck, Driver Is Unharmed

PEMBROKE (Special) - Merwyn Jennings, 19-year-old Mackie Station log truck driver, had a narrow brush with death shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday when his tractor trailer was struck by a 62 car, two diesel engine CNR freight five miles south of here.

Force of the crash tore the trailer from the cab of the truck, pushing the cab and Jennings forward to safety. The trailer was completely demolished and an estimated \$20,000 damage was caused one of the diesel engines. Failure to notice the oncoming train was blamed on a clump of trees near the crossing.

06/04/1959

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Bells Corners

Trucker Injured In Crossing Crash

Percy Stevenson, 38, of 71 Florence Street, truck driver for Frazer Duntile was seriously injured shortly after 9.30 this morning when his vehicle was struck by a train at the Bells Corners' station crossing. There are no signals at the crossing.

Stevenson, driving a two-ton dump truck was enroute to his company's gravel pit when he drove directly in front of a CNR way freight bound for Barry's Bay.

The locomotive tore the dump box from the vehicle and carried the main portion of the truck 675 feet up the right of way. The train came to a stop almost at the Highway 15 crossing.

Stevenson, a native of Kazabazua, Que., and father of 10 children, suffered two broken legs, a fractured arm, injuries to his other arm and deep facial cuts. He was rushed to Civic Hospital by Exclusive ambulance and taken directly to the operating room.

"Serious" Condition

His condition was described as "serious but not critical." .

J. G. Gaffney, 27 Belgrave Avenue, engineer of the train said he was proceeding about 50. miles an hour when the truck approached.

"I applied the brakes to emergency when I saw he was not going to stop. The diesel hit the truck almost in the center of the left side."

The impact damaged the front end of the diesel badly and the dump box crashed into the cab of the engine causing damage.

The truck was almost completely demolished and was wedged beneath the front of the diesel when the train was brought to a stop. The driver was still in the cab, held by one heel caught beneath the scat of the vehicle.

Engineer Gaffney and Conductor D. C. Ross, 1123 Apolydor Avenue, removed the injured man from the truck which was soaked with gasoline and in danger of taking fire.

Traffic was tied up for about an hour on Highway 15 while wrecking cars removed the badly damaged truck from the right of way. The train resumed its route to Barrys Bay after the damaged locomotive was replaced. OPP and Gloucester-Nepean Police investigated and controlled traffic at the scene,

Caption to picture (shows CNR 1298)

Driver Misses Death

Percy Stevenson, truck driver for Frazer-Duntile escaped death this morningj at Bells Corners station crossing when his two-ton dump truck was rammed by the CNR way freight to Barrys Bay. Stevenson suffered broken legs, a fractured arm and severe facial cuts. Civic Hospital says his condition is "serious." Photo by Newton

20/05/1959 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Dunrobin

30 loaded cars of a 68-car CNR freight train were derailed this morning near Dunrobin, about 20 miles west of Ottawa on the main line of the railway. No one was injured in the derailment which occurred at about 10 o'clock as the freight headed towards Ottawa between Dunrobin and Malwood (near the Constance Bay Road crossing).

Railway officials arranged to have traffic re-routed over CPR trackage until the line has been cleared, and the reason for the derailment found. The freight was made up of 50 loaded cars and 18 empties.

20/05/1959 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Dunrobin

Train Derailed

The main line of the CNR was tied up this morning when 20 cars of a 68-car freight train were derailed at Dunrobin, 25 miles west of Ottawa. There were no injuries.

Railway investigators are attempting to determine how the cars, in the middle of the train, were thrown off the track. They were all loaded and pulled by a three-unit diesel engine.

The derailment occurred at 6.30 a.m. and railway officials said the line should be closed late this evening or Thursday morning.

Caption to Picture

CNR work crews, laboring since 10 a.m. yesterday, to clear the wreckage of this spectacular pile-up near Dunrobin Ont. - about 20 miles west of Ottawa - expect to have the mangled 1,800 feet of track replaced and debris cleaned up by late this afternoon. Nobody was injured in the derailment but damage will run to many thousands of dollars, CNR officials say. The 68-car freight running east from Capreol Ont. to Ottawa on the CNR main line appeared to break in half atop a slight embankment and 32 broken cars spewed grain, bags of flour, lumber and pulp wood over the countryside. Until order is restored, the 4 regular passenger and 4 freight trains using the line daily will be re-routed on to CPR tracks.

21/05/1959 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Dunrobin

Derailed at Dunrobin. - 32 cars leave line. (with picture)

CNR work crews, laboring since 10 a.m. yesterday to clear the wreckage of this spectacular pile-up near Dunrobin, Ont. - about 20 miles west of Ottawa, expect to have the mangled 1,800 feet of track replaced and debris cleaned by late this afternoon. Nobody was injured in the derailment but damage will run to many thousands of dollars, CNR officials say. The 68-car freight running east from Capreol, Ont., to Ottawa on the CNR main line, appeared to break in half atop a slight embankment and 32 broken cars spewed grain, bags of flour, lumber and pulp wood over the countryside. Until order is restored, the four regular passenger and four freight trains using the line daily will be re-routed on to CPR tracks.

04/11/1959 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Beachburg

Truck Hits Train Driver Uninjured

PEMBROKE (Special) A Beachburg man escaped injury when the truck he was driving smashed into the engine of a CNR freight train at an unguarded level crossing about one mile south of Beachburg this morning.

Police said Marvin McLaughlin, 30, of Beachburg was travelling south and did not see the eastbound train until it was too late to stop.

21/12/1959 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Smyth Road

Close Call With Train

A city man escaped death by inches when a freight train struck the rear of his auto at the Smyth Road level crossing near Riverside Drive Saturday morning.

The train, its crew apparently unaware of the accident, did not stop. Police do not know whether it was a CNR or CPR locomotive.

Gerald Whelan, 25, of 191 Bays-water Avenue, said he was just crossing the tracks when he saw the train bearing down on him. He said he accelerated but did not clear the rails in time.

The locomotive caught the rear of his car, turning it around on the roadway and knocking it clear. Damage to the vehicle was about \$200.

Mr. Whelan, who had just finished work on a night shift, told police his car would still operate.

15/10/1960 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Malwood

11 Cars Of Freight Derailed

Workmen of the Canadian National Railways were clearing the tracks 23 miles west of Ottawa today after 11 cars of a 75-car eastbound freight train from Western Canada yesterday jumped the tracks. No one was injured.

The derailment occurred at mile 22.3 of the Beachburg subdivision near Malwood, Ont., at 4.10 p.m. Cause of the derailment was not known.

A spokesman for the railway said the company, helped by work crews brought in from Montreal, Capreol Ont., and Ottawa, hoped to have the track cleared by late this morning.

The locomotive and first 26 cars of the train, and the balance of the cars, remained on the tracks. It is believed some of the derailed cars over turned on their sides.

The 6.15 supercontinental passenger train from Montreal last night, and the continental from Western Canada, due here 7.50 this morning were rerouted on the Canadian Pacific Railway line between Pembroke and Ottawa.

Conductor Charles Wannamaker, of 42 Florence street, and Engineer L. Beauchamp, both of Ottawa, staffed the train.

17/10/1960 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Malwood

CNR Freight Partly Derailed.

Eleven cars of a 75-car eastbound freight train from Western Canada were derailed near Malwood, Ont., about 23 miles west of Ottawa on Friday. There were no injuries.

The CNR reported that the locomotive and the first 26 cars and the rest of the cars remained on the tracks. The 11 cars which left the track were near the middle of the train.

Details of the derailment are still under investigation by CNR officials and no estimate of damage is possible at this time.

Crews were sent from Ottawa as soon as news of the accident reached here. The task of clearing the track was expected to be complete late this morning.

Crew members of the train included two Ottawa men, Charles Wannamaker, the conductor and N.L. Beauchamp, the engineer.

13/01/1961 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

The old days have returned to Alta Vista where a railway flagman - complete with hand sign, lantern and a shack - has been set up at Smyth Road and Norwood.

Ruling May Lower Trains Crossing Speed

Act Sets Limit At 10 MPH

By Wilf Bell and David McWilliam Citizen Staff Writers

An Ontario - Supreme Court finding on a level-crossing accident in Ottawa may have a major impact on train speeds across the country.

A six-man jury has found the Canadian National Railways and one of its engineers 80 percent responsible for a level-crossing accident at the Smyth Road because of excessive speed.

Violated Act

The jury found Engineer Maurice Gaffney had violated provisions of the Railway Act which call for speeds not to exceed 10 miles per hour in "thickly-peopled portions" of cities.

An official of the Board of Transport Commissioners said this morning the board "has never interpreted the act in this way

"The railways won't let it rest there," he said. "This will have a serious impact on train operations across the country."

The Board of Transport Commissioners said that the decision was a completely "new interpretation" of the act and that it would likely bring an immediate appeal by the railways.

If the railways fail to appeal and if this ruling is upheld it will most certainly have an affect on the speed limit of trains throughout Canada.

Decision Welcomed

Aid. Murray Heit, chairman of the city's Train Speed Committee, who in the past has strenuously objected to excessive train speeds through the city, welcomed the decision of the jury.

"In the light of this decision," said Aid. Heit, "we will have a new look at the whole situation here in Ottawa."

The accident occurred February 19, 1960, when a CNR Budd car from Barrys Bay hit and demolished a car owned by Dr. Alfred Crook, 1527 Kilborn Avenue.

Dr. Crook said in evidence he was driving west on the Smyth Road when he was stopped by a long line of traffic right on top of the intersecting CNR tracks.

"The jury feels that on the day of the accident the speed was excessive," it said in reply to the questions of fact submitted for its decision by Mr. Justice Spence.

No Speed Limit

There is no general speed limit prescribed by Canadian law. The Board of Transport Commissioners may, however, fix a speed limit under certain circumstances.

Recently an Ottawa city appeal to the Board to reduce train speeds was rejected, and the limit of 45 miles per hour for passenger trains, and 35 miles for freight trains was upheld.

Section 312, sub section 1, Clause (b) of the Dominion Railway Act states: "No train shall pass at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour over any highway crossing at rail level in any thickly-people portion of any city or village. . . . Unless permission is given by some regulation or order of the Board (The Board of Transport Commissioners).

The plaintiff's damages were assessed at \$1,642.

The jury found that the Smyth Road was a thickly-peopled portion of Ottawa.

The jury also said the "CNR was negligent in that they would allow their roadbed at the Smyth Road crossing to become so rutted . . . rendering it impossible to move said car not even by pushing . . . Had this been done, the accident in all probability would not have happened."

Evidence was given that Dr. Crook and two friends tried to push the car off the tracks but could not do it.

The plaintiff was represented by Beament, Fyfe, Ault and Hutton. Appearing for the defendants was E. M. Lane, of Toronto.

26/09/1961 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Strathearn

Driver Hurt In Train, Truck Crash

A truck-train collision at 11.30 a.m. yesterday, 16 miles west of Ottawa sent a 22-year-old Ottawa man to Civic Hospital.

Jean Guy Carisse of 123 Bote-ler St., driver of the truck, was admitted to hospital with concussion, head and facial lacerations and undetermined chest and shoulder injuries.

Police said a Pembroke-to-Ottawa CNR freight collided with the truck at a crossing a mile east of Strathearn Station. Engineer of the seven-car train was Wilmer Schultz of Golden Lake.

29/01/1962 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Bells Corners

Driver Hurt As Car Hit At Crossing

Douglas Bean, 34, of 13 Trinity Dr., Bells Corners, escaped serious injury at 10.45 this morning when his car was struck by a train at the CNR level crossing on the Base Line Road, near Bells Corners.

The injured man was taken to Civic Hospital by private car. He suffered mainly facial injuries, none of them serious. Provincial police are investigating.

02/04/1962 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Bells Corners

Trainmen Save Truck Driver Buried In Sand

A man seriously injured in a truck-train accident was rescued by the train crew after he was almost buried by his load of sand near noon today. Paul Menard, 29, of 116 LeBre-ton St., was almost completely buried by 10 tons of sand when his truck overturned after the collision on the Bompas side road near Bells Corners. Only one foot was poking out of the sand when the train crew reached him. With shovels they dug him out, only partially conscious, and he was rushed to the Ottawa Civic Hospital by ambulance.

21/04/1962 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Killed By Train Alfred Florent, 38, of Egan-ville was killed by a CNR train while on a fishing expedition near Ruby Station near Killaloe Friday.

Trains To Roll Past Hospital 17 Times Daily

Seventeen trains a day may rumble past the planned new Riverside Drive Hospital, says J. L. McQuarrie railway consultant for the National Capital Commission.

Last night, a report that 28 trains might pass the proposed hospital daily knocked City Council temporarily off the rails.

Mayor Charlotte Whitton, pounding her desk angrily, said as far as she knew there would be only two "major" trains running along the Riverside Drive tracks daily. Aid. Jules Morin said he had heard there would be 28.

Relocation of the Union Station to its Queensway site will change rail traffic in that area, Mr. McQuarrie explained.

He said that no freight trains will pass through the new station, but passenger trains including trans-continentals, morning and evening trains to Toronto and Montreal, and a few one-car diesels serving the CPR North Shore line to Montreal.

Mr. McQuarrie said two tracks will serve the new station in and out, to permit handling of long passenger trains which might be arriving or departing at approximately the same time.

Backing in of passenger trains, as has been required from the Hurdman's Bridge Y into the present Union Station, will be eliminated.

Mr. McQuarrie stated there are no basic changes in the NCC railway re-location plans, apart from some modifications in the new Union Station itself.

Con. Lloyd Francis confirmed that the 28-train prediction was made at a hospital committee meeting.

Con. Lloyd Francis confirmed that the 28-train prediction was made at a hospital committee meeting.

All that was gone into before the land, on Riverside Drive near Smyth Road, was acquired, Mayor Whitton said. Only one of the three tracks now there was to remain 700 feet from the hospital.

Allegations against the site had been made time and again, said the Mayor. Innuendos had been made about the cost.

"I'm not making innuendos," interrupted Con. Francis. "I'm saying outright the cost was too great."

Aid. Ellen Webber, first imploring the Mayor not to "get furious with me," said she has been asking a number of questions about possible railway relocation.

"I've been told there are changes in the minds of the railway people and the Board of Transport Commissioners," she stated.

Mayor Whitton brushed aside the idea. The one track left by the hospital will be a main line CNR track, she said. There would be two major trains a day, from Montreal and Toronto.

"Western trains are already being reduced," she said. "The long-range travel will be by air."

Con. Wilbert Hamilton said aldermen should "ask Joe Paradis" where the figure of 28 came from.

05/07/1962 *The Equity, Shawville**Beachburg**Portage du Fort*

Train fire.

Last night, as the Trans Continental [sic] CNR passenger train rolled into Portage du Fort (Quebec) station, a sectionman noticed an extreme amount of smoke surrounding the diesel. After it stopped and discharged Mr. Godon Gibbins, a passenger, it started on west.

Just then the flames began to shoot from the auxilliary engine, and the sectionman flagged the engineer, who until then had not been aware of the problem. They immediately unhooked the passenger cars and pushed the auxilliary unit onto a siding. Portage volunteer firemen continued to fight the blaze, which was now burning fiercely. The main engine then picked up the passenger cars and proceeded west.

One wonders what the results would have been if the fire had not been noticed until the train had left the station, carrying 1400 gal. of fuel and headed for the bridge to Ontario.

(Shawville Equity, July 8, 1987.)

03/08/1962 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Bristol*

Derailment Near Showville Closes Line 12 Hours

PEMBROKE- (Staff) Canadian Railway trains between Pembroke and Ottawa were routed over Canadian Pacific Railway lines Thursday because of a CNR derailment at Bristol, six miles east of Shawville, Que.

A number of cars of a west bound freight No. 401 left the main line's rails at a point where there was only a single track.

A section of track was torn up and the under-carriage from one car was ripped off.

The line was closed for approximately 12 hours after the derailment which occurred at 6 am

24/11/1962 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Greenbank Road*

Passenger Escapes

Auto rams train, city youth dies

A 19-year-old Ottawa youth was killed instantly late Friday afternoon when the car he was driving crashed into the side of a CNR freight train at a dark, signal-void level crossing on Greenbank Road, in Nepean Township.

Dead is Ashley Hammeil, only son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hammeil of 533 Bay St., a student at the Eastern Ontario Institute of Technology.

Police say only a miracle saved the life of Barry Riddell, 19, another EOIT student and passenger in the Hammeil car. Barry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Riddell of 506 Mc- Leod St.

Investigating officers said the driver of the car apparently failed to see the oncoming freight and collided with the second unit of the engine.

The car struck the rear corner of the diesel unit and was dragged a short distance until the train came to a halt. The accident occurred at 5 p.m.

Facial cuts only

Barry Riddell was treated for facial lacerations at Civic Hospital and later released. Engineer on the train was James Dodd of 90 Gilmour St., the conductor, Frank Norton, 730 Manitou Drive.

CNR officials said the train was making its way to the Walkley freight yards. It was within Nepean Township limits.

The train was held one hour and 45 minutes pending the completion of police investigation, conducted by Const. Ross Stewart of Gloucester-Nepean Police.

05/01/1963 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Indian*

CNR freight derailed, no one hurt

PEMBROKE (Special) Seven cars of an eastbound CNR freight train were derailed Friday noon at Indian, 17 miles west of here. Cause has not been determined.

Officials said 300 feet of track was torn up and the line is not expected to be back in operation until late today or early Sunday.

Meanwhile, the CNR east-bound and westbound Super-Continentials were rerouted over CPR track between North Bay and Pembroke.

Friday's eastbound Super, due in Ottawa at 3.30 p.m., arrived here at 10.40 p.m.

Engineer on the train, Harold Buske, and the conductor, Patrick Malone, were both from Ottawa. No one was injured in the derailment.

05/01/1963 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Indian*

Train Derailment Near Pembroke

PEMBROKE (Staff) A derailment at Indian, 18 miles west of here resulted in CNR trains re-routed at North Bay since 11.30 a.m. Friday.

Early reports from the isolated scene of the accident were that seven cars of an eastbound freight had left the rails. About 300 feet of track will have to be replaced.

No one was injured.

Ottawa men on the train crew were Patrick Malone, engineer, and Harold Buske, conductor.

29/03/1963 *Ottawa Citizen*

Beachburg

Trains reason for hospital soundproofing

Planned expenditure of about \$100,000 for sound proofing the new Riverside Drive City Hospital will deaden the sound from a maximum of 17 daily CNR and CPR passenger trains passing by en route to the new Union Station near Hurdman's Bridge after 1965.

No freight trains will travel past the new hospital since such trains will all be handled at the Walkley Road yards when the NCC railway relocation program is completed about two years hence.

Two tracks to handle passenger trains through the new Union Station will eliminate all backing in or out of passenger trains as has been required for some trains into the present Union Station through use of the Hurdman's Bridge Y.

11/04/1963 *Ottawa Citizen*

Beachburg

Portage du Fort

Naptha gas threatens village

27 cars strewn along line in CNR wreck at Portage du Fort.

By Bob Rupert Citizen staff writer

PORTAGE DU FORT -Thousands of gallons of highly volatile naptha gas was filling up ditches and spreading over a wide area here following a spectacular train-truck collision early this morning.

Police and railway officials describe the situation as dangerous.

Three cars of gas were among 27 cars derailed when a westbound CNR freight and a transport trailer truck crashed near the station here. Portage du Fort is 65 miles northwest of Ottawa.

"Only takes a spark"

Some 200 spectators have been forced back by police who are attempting to cordon off the area. There is no immediate danger to Portage du Fort, a mile and a half away.

However an official said: "It only takes a spark to set it off."

The train was also carrying explosives as well as the gas but there was no fire or explosion despite the fact all the derailed cars were strewn on both sides of the track, some completely overturned and others left balancing on their ends. Three diesel engines were thrown on their sides.

Three in hospital

Three of the train crew, engineers Bill Callan and Edward Rock, both of Ottawa, and a brakeman, Raymond V. Markle, 45, of 108 Minnetonka Road, Ottawa, were injured and are in Pontiac Community Hospital at Shawville.

None of the injuries are reported as serious.

Driver of the tractor-trailer truck, Rosaire Cantin, 45, of 2648 Clarendia St., Ottawa, escaped unharmed. The truck's trailer was sliced into six pieces.

Owned by Morrison -La-mothe, bakery, the transport was hauling 800 loaves of bread which were strewn over a wide area.

The freight train was also loaded with heavy construction equipment, including iron pipes and chemical tanks.

For a time railway and police officials feared for a large crowd that gathered at the scene. "One spark and the whole thing would have gone up," one workman said.

The crowd was pushed back and the dangerous cars isolated.

The accident happened at 7.30 a.m. as the northbound truck headed along the Portage-Bryson highway. The train was westbound.

The conductor, Ernest Beddington, 38, of 98 Nicolet St., Hull, riding in the caboose, was not injured.

Two of the four men involved in the wreck have been released from Pontiac Community Hospital.

Still hospitalized are Bill Callan, 53-year-old chief engineer who lives at 44 Havelock St., Ottawa, and fireman Eddy Rock, 52, of 68 St. Francis St., Ottawa.

Mr. Callan, who may have a fractured thumb, said the train was travelling about 49 m.p.h. when it struck the truck. He said he saw a flash ahead (probably the aluminum trailer) and hit the emergency brake.

"It's a peculiar feeling when you know you are going somewhere, but don't know where you will end up. I thought my fireman was dead when I saw him. He and the brakeman were lying right on top of me after the train turned over on its side.

11/04/1963 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

Portage du Fort

FREIGHT HITSTRUCK

Ottawa Crew Hurt In Derailment

PORTAGE DU FORT

A fast Canadian National Railway freight was derailed here this morning after hitting a transport-trailer unit at a level crossing.

Two men were injured.

The truck driver, 38-year-old Ross Cantin, 2648 Clarendia Street, Ottawa, was left sitting safely behind the steering wheel when the 96-car freight sheared off the trailer unit and scattered it for a distance of 500 feet along the tracks.

Three diesel units rolled over, injuring engineer Bill Cullen and fireman Ed Rock, both of Ottawa.

They are in Shawville Hospital not seriously hurt.

Thirty thousand gallons of naptha gas spilled along the right of way which was cordoned off by Quebec Provincial Police.

Bits of the truck body were spread throughout the wreckage of 27 freight cars which piled up behind the ditched diesels.

CNR auxiliary equipment was brought here from Ottawa and Capreol to clear the lines. The wreckage is blockings the main road between here and Campbell's Bay, 12 miles west on Highway 8.

Mr. Cantin is a driver for Morrison-Lamothe.

The truck was loaded with empty metal bread baskets) which were strewn along the highway.

Other crew members on the train were: conductor Ernest Beddington, '94 Nicolet Street, Hull, brakemen Raymond Markle, 1089 Minnetonka Road, and Dennis O'Connell. 1219 Kitchener Avenue, both of Ottawa

13/04/1963 *Ottawa Citizen*

Beachburg

Portage du Fort

Railway line cleared

PORTAGE DU FORT (Special) . The main line of the Canadian National Railway at Portage du Fort, 35 miles southeast of Pembroke, opened again for normal traffic at noon Friday.

Work crews and security guards were kept busy throughout the day and night Thursday to clear 27 freight cars and three diesel engines off the right of way after one of the most spectacular level crossing accidents in this area's history.

A westbound CNR freight was derailed about 7.30 a.m., Thursday, in a collision with a Morrison-Lamothe tractor-trailer.

Engineer William Callan of Ottawa has been discharged from the Pontiac Community Hospital at Shawville after X-rays showed no serious injury. Fireman Edmund Rock, also of Ottawa, is to be discharged Monday; he suffered multiple bruises.

29/01/1964 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Walkley Road

Train wrecks taxi-cab, driver suffers injuries

An Ottawa cab driver escaped from his wrecked taxi early this morning after it was struck by a train on Walkley Road near McCarthy Road.

Mel York, of 104 McNaughton Road, a driver for Red Line Taxi, was taken to Civic Hospital by Exclusive Ambulance with multiple cuts, an injured knee and shock.

The accident happened shortly after midnight as York, westbound on Walkley Road, was headed for Uplands Airport to meet an incoming flight.

He apparently did not see the Ottawa-bound train at the unmarked crossing. Red Line night dispatcher Wilfred Lavoie said he had sent York and four other drivers to the airport to meet the plane. But York had taken a route not normally used by the company.

The taxi was demolished in the crash.

13/03/1964 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Woodroffe Ave

Three killed in Woodroffe Ave. rail crossing crash

Maintenance car slammed by auto Three CNR maintenance men were killed and a fourth is in critical condition after their light maintenance vehicle was struck by an automobile at a Woodroffe Avenue railway crossing this morning.

Dead are: Willis White, Concession 12, Goulburn Township; Tony Perrier and John Passaw, whose addresses were not available at press time.

14/03/1964 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Woodroffe Ave

Victims of crash

These are the four CNR employees who died Friday after a railway handcar they were riding on was in collision with a car on Woodroffe Avenue, a mile south of Base Line Road. Willis White, Tony Perrier and John Passaw were dead on arrival at Civic Hospital. James McLean died in hospital Friday afternoon.

30/03/1964 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Pembroke

Car and train collide, mother, 3 children hurt

PEMBROKE (Special) A mother and one of her children are in "serious" condition this morning, while two more of her children are in hospital injured to a lesser degree, after a level-crossing accident at the B - Line Road here Saturday.

Mrs. Donald Baskey, 24, of RR 6 Pembroke, is in Pembroke General Hospital here with head injuries. Her condition is described as serious. A hospital spokesman said her son, Terrence 7, is also in "serious condition," also with head injuries.

Another son, Michael Baskey, 6 months, is in fair condition with head injuries while a daughter, Diana Baskey, 20 months, is in good condition with minor facial injuries.

The family were passengers in a car driven by Mrs. Baskey's brother, Keith Robert Humphrey, 21, of RR 7 Pembroke.

Cpl. Wallace Mohns of the Pembroke Ontario Provincial Police said the car was apparently travelling north when it collided with the side of a west-bound CNR freight train.

The car was thrown 20 feet into a ditch. The vehicle was described by police as having been "demolished.

Humphrey was uninjured.

31/03/1964 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Woodroffe Ave

Inquest told how four killed

A coroner's jury was told Monday night (31/3) that James Knox McLean, 59, of 3011 Base Line Rd., one of four CNR maintenance men killed in a level crossing accident on Woodroffe Avenue March 13, died of a massive abdominal hemorrhage.

Four doctors and two emergency ward nurses at the Ottawa Civic Hospital testified as to Mr. McLean's extensive injuries. He had a crushed left chest, head injuries, two fractured legs and multiple lacerations.

Also killed were Willis White, 60, of concession 12, Goulburn Township, Tony Perrier, 47, of Moose Creek and John Passaw, 29, of Renfrew, when a car was in collision with their motorized railway handcar.

Mr. McLean died in hospital about eight hours later.

Driver of the automobile was Malcolm Massey, 34, of Manotick. He suffered facial lacerations but was not seriously injured.

Orders "no notes" Coroner Dr. W. T. Kendall interrupted the proceedings to tell a stenographer sitting among the spectators she could not take notes.

The woman identified herself as representing W. C. Lackey and Co., a firm of insurance adjusters.

After a recess, Dr. Kendall conceded "anyone" could take notes but not a shorthand transcript.

There is one official transcript and it is kept by the court reporter," he said.

The inquest will continue tonight, when eye witness reports and technical evidence by police officers will be given.

Kenneth Dean, 49, of 5 Monk St., a CNR section foreman, said he saw McLean at the controls the morning of the accident.

Mr. Dean testified the wheels of track cars are insulated and will not set off wig wag light signals.

He said track - car operators are supposed to stop at all level crossings according to railway rules, but where vision is unimpaired "you're supposed to use your own judgment."

Both the auto and the CNR track car ended up in a ditch some 75 feet from the point of impact.

28/04/1964 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Foresters Falls

Conductor's last trip and his first accident

By Bryan Goodyer Citizen staff writer

Normally the Canadian National Capreol-to-Ottawa run is an uneventful one.

But for conductor Albert Seguin of Gatineau, Monday afternoon's trip was anything but.

"I was bragging all day from Capreol," recalled the 65-year-old conductor who retired yesterday.

"I've been 47 years and four months with Canadian National and in that period I've never had a serious collision or a bad derailment," he said.

Then it happened.

The CNR's Supercontinental struck a car at a level crossing at Foresters Falls near Renfrew as conductor Seguin's last run neared its end.

The train demolished the car, hurling it into a ditch next to the village's station.

Fortunately, the driver, Duncan Gilchrist, 31, of RR 6 Pembroke, alone in the car at the time, was unhurt.

"We were doing 45 miles an hour when we hit him," said Mr. Seguin. "I made the investigation myself."

"I thanked God that no one was hurt," the veteran conductor said.

The accident meant that train Number One didn't arrive in Ottawa until 3 p.m., almost two hours, or 110 minutes by Mr. Seguin's reckoning, behind schedule.

The 65-year-old conductor climbed down where he was met by CNR president Donald Gordon who congratulated him on his 47 years of service.

Did Mr. Gordon ask the conductor why he was so late.

"Didn't even mention it," replied Mr. Seguin with a chuckle.

Milk truck driver killed

A 22 - year - old Producers Dairy, Ltd., driver died instantly when his truck was demolished by a fast CNR freight train at the Bells Corners station shortly before 7 a.m. today.

Dead is Wayne Murray Aptt whose home was at Richmond. He was married and the father of a five-months-old child.

Nepean Township police say the level crossing crash was one of the worst in their experience. The force of the impact hurled parts of the truck hundreds of feet along the right-of-way.

The motor was tossed more than 100 feet, crashing into two parked automobiles and wrecking one of them almost completely.

Body hurled 400 feet

The body of the victim was found on the tracks almost 400 feet from the crossing.

It was taken to Civic Hospital for a post mortem. Coroner Dr. W. T. Kendall, who was called to the scene, has not as yet set an inquest date.

Police said the train was travelling west from Ottawa at about 55 miles an hour. It was in the charge of engineer Derek Gillott, of Brinston, Ont. and Conductor P. J. O'Toole of Ottawa.

The dairy truck, laden with milk, was travelling west along Cedar View Road. The road turns sharply at the crossing and it is believed that Aptt's view may have been partially blocked by a signal shack beside the tracks. The crossing has no signals.

The two parked cars which were damaged were unoccupied at the time.

A Producers Dairy, Ltd., spokesman said that Wayne Murray Aptt had been with the firm as a route salesman for about a year.

The crash was investigated by Nepean Constables Willard Story and Wayne Phillips under the direction of Sgt. Gus Wersch.

20/05/1964 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Cedarview Road*

Signals urged at RR crossing

Automatic signals at the Canadian National Railways Cedarview Road crossing were recommended by a coroner's jury Tuesday night investigating the death of a 22 - year-old milk truck driver.

The jury found that Wayne Murray Aptt of Richmond died from "dismemberment and mutilation" after his loaded milk truck was struck by a 67-car CNR fast freight about 6.55 a.m.. May 4.

The jury made the recommendation "due to the current volume of traffic and the fact that school buses presently use this route" in moving to and from the nearby Lynwood Village subdivision.

The jury also found that:

1 The train crew exercised due precautions in accordance with their present practice and orders.

2. The accident was due to misadventure contributed to by the nature of the truck load and the surface of the road which apparently prevented the truck driver from hearing the train whistle.

3 A building near the tracks that houses signal equipment constitutes a hazard in its present location.

Running 55 ni.p.h.

The freight's engineer, Derek Gillot of Princeton, told the inquest the train, which does not run on a tight schedule, left the Walkley Yards at 6.35 a.m., and had reached a speed of 55 miles per hour when the accident happened.

"About 100 feet from the crossing, I realized he wasn't going to stop," said the engineer. "We had 18 loaded cars, 49 empties and three diesel units."

"When we hit him, milk and everything sprayed over the windows and we couldn't see," the engineer said.

Brakeman G. E. Moore told the jury the driver of the truck was totally unaware of the onrushing train.

"I saw him in the truck looking straight ahead about 15 to 20 feet from the point of impact," he said.

"It's pretty obvious the truck driver was unaware of the oncoming train at what I would call an unguarded crossing," said Coroner Dr. W. T. Kendall in his address to the jury.

"Perhaps you can stop this wanton slaughter at level crossings," said Dr. Kendall.

"You've heard the opinions.

"The police believe signals might prove of some benefit." he said. "I feel that they're very adequate and in my experience as a coroner, I believe they've greatly reduced the number of traffic accidents."

02/07/1964 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Woodlawn*

Man injured as train hits truck

WOODLAWN (Special) -William Ellis, 29, of White Lake is in serious condition at Ottawa Civic Hospital, following a mishap near here Wednesday morning in which his truck was demolished by a fast CNR passenger train.

The crash occurred at a level crossing near the farm of Mervyn Ritchie at 8.30 a.m. The train was en route from Capreol to Ottawa.

Torbolton Constable William Griese, who investigated, said the right-of-way was clearly visible up and down the tracks for more than a mile, and that the driver should normally have been able to see an approaching train.

The injured man, who was thrown clear of the truck, was taken by ambulance to Arnprior District Memorial Hospital, but was transferred to Civic Hospital yesterday afternoon. He is suffering from undetermined injuries.

09/12/1964 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Norway Bay*

Two trainmen shaken up as freight jumps track.

Norway Bay. Two Canadian National Railways trainmen were slightly injured at 7 p.m. yesterday when a 59-car freight train left the tracks just east of here.

No cause has yet been determined for the derailment of the last seven cars of the train. There was heavy damage to the cars and hundreds of feet of track were ripped up.

Brakeman Melville Swinwood, 45, of 86 Rosebella St. Ottawa, spent the night in Pontiac Memorial Hospital at Shawville. He was released today after treatment of bruises and a minor head injury.

Conductor shaken up.

Also shaken up in the accident was train conductor Patrick O'Toole of 239 Fourth Ave. Mr. O'Toole was not admitted to hospital.

A CNR spokesman said the train was bound to Ottawa from Winnipeg on the CNR's main line from Montreal to Western Canada.

CNR trains were forced to detour on the Canadian Pacific Railway track late Tuesday and early Wednesday.

City pays \$200,000

Overpass estimate high

Three possible overpasses for the Beachburg railway line can be built for under \$2,000,000, an official of the National Capital Commission said today.

This estimated cost, of which the Railway Grade Crossing Fund would pay 80 per cent and the railways 10 per cent, is away lower than an \$8,000,000 estimate by Con. Murray Heit and a \$5,000,000 estimate by Con. Ernie Jones.

Ottawa would be required to pay the remaining 10 per cent of the cost of overpasses which might ultimately be required.

The NCC official questioned whether Beachburg line overpasses or underpasses would be required, at least for some years, at Pleasant Park Road, Walkley Road and Heron Road, since those crossings are now protected with electric flashing signals gates.

The city, by building an underpass touching the Beachburg line for the new Smyth Road Bridge, recognized two years ago that the line would continue in operation.

Continued operation of the Beachburg line became necessary from 1959 when the Diefenbaker Conservative government formally approved of the new Union Station site at Alta Vista, just off the Queensway, rather than the earlier much further out site talked of in the Walkley Road area.

Since 1957, the NCC source emphasized, no commitment had ever been given by the government or the NCC to the city or to anyone else, that the Beachburg line would be abandoned.

The Beachburg line, which in past years has been the main CNR line for trains to western Canada, provides the in-and-out route for all trains to the new Union Station to be completed by mid-1966.

The NCC points out that the location of the new Union Station and the layout of tracks will permit all trains to operate in and out of the station without any backing in or backing out.

CNR-NCC explain contraversialrailway line.

Officials of the National Capital Commission and the CNR made these points Monday on the controversial Beach-burg railway line for Ottawa's new Union Station to be completed by mid-1966 near the Queensway - Alta Vista exchange:

Eight daily CNR and CPR transcontinental trains moving through Ottawa using the Beachburg line will cut 15 minutes' running time from their existing schedules.

Conversely, each transcontinental train through Ottawa would add 20 minutes to its existing schedule were the Beachburg line abandoned and replaced by a three-mile longer Walkley Road railway route.

(This means a difference of 5 minutes in Ottawa running time for eight daily transcontinental trains.)

Station delay

Scheduled opening of the new Union Station would be delayed for a year or longer were the Beachburg line to be abandoned. It would cost an unestimated sum to provide additional double passenger route tracks along the Walkley Road freight trackage and complete necessary redesign of the costly central traffic control system.

Both the government and the railways are "reasonably satisfied" with the Beachburg line route to the new station and there must, some time, be an end to changes and constantly rising installation costs. The NCC Ottawa - Hull area railway relocation program will cost \$39,750,000, though there are some offsetting benefits to the government accruing from railway lands and right-of-way to be used for new building development and new traffic arteries. The program eliminates 72 of 111 level crossings in the metropolitan area

The signal control system designed for the Beachburg line into the new station will not require double tracking of that line to take care of from 25 to 29 passenger trains daily over the line.

Protected crossings

There is no urgency as to overpasses or underpasses on the Beachburg line at Pleasant Park Road, Walkley Road and Heron Road, since they are now protected by electrical signals or gates. Each grade separation, when provided, would cost about \$500,000 with the Board of Transport Commissioners paying 80 per cent of the cost, the railways 10 per cent, and the city the remaining 10 per cent.

Con. Murray Heit estimated the cost of Beachburg line grade separation projects at \$8,000,000.

NCC and CNR officials discounted as "a wild guess", the \$40,000,000 estimate figure used by Con. Ellen Webber at a city council meeting touching the request of the CNR and CPR to be recouped for the next 100 years for higher operational costs were the Beachburg line to be abandoned. Mayor Don Reid stated the railways were asking for such compensation for 100 years, though he gave no estimate on the cost claim involved. NCC and CNR officials doubted whether the government would accede to city pressure to abandon the Beachburg line because of all the operational and cost factors involved.

Rail line's future load 20 trains

A maximum of 20 daily all passenger trains will travel the Beachburg line when the new Union Station near the Queensway - Alta Vista interchange is opened late in 1966.

No freight trains of any kind will use the Beachburg line since they will all be rerouted through the Walkley Road freight yards and not come near the new station.

At present there are four CPR and four CNR transcontinental trains passing through Ottawa daily. There are two dayliners to Brockville. There are about six other trains daily operating between Ottawa and Toronto and Ottawa and Montreal.

NCC map shows Beachburg line to remain

Still hope for owners

Residents living near the Beachburg line were told Thursday night that "the door is still open" for further negotiation on the relocation of the line.

Con. Murray Heit told the Bayview Property Owners Association meeting in the Brookfield High School auditorium they had his support in the continuing fight for relocation, and that the Beachburg question was "still up in the air."

Con. Heit said an alternative to relocation, placing the line partly underground, had not yet been investigated thoroughly. He pointed out that a track across the Carleton University campus was to be put underground.

Hope left

Aid. Pat Doherty said he "hadn't given up hope that the Beachburg line would be moved."

Aid. Doherty said the lines were already there for relocation of the tracks so relocation would only cost \$300,000 for signals.

He suggested the Bayview association form a committee to "keep after the NCC city council, and the railroads.

If the tracks are to be retained, Con. Heit suggested the crossings be eliminated by grade separations, overpasses and underpasses.

Failing this, he said, that whistling, a major concern of Bayview residents, could be eliminated by installing safety gates at all crossings.

He said it would not be safe to ask for a stoppage on whistling unless automatic safety gates were installed. Wig-wag bells are not wags enough, he added.

Train whistling had been halted at the Billings and Pleasant Park crossings when gates were installed.

He said the federal government and the railroads would pay 90 per cent of the cost of the gates and the city would pay the other 10 per cent.

Mysterious ways

His comment on an NCC statement that noise could be reduced a great deal with appropriate landscaping was that "the ways of the NCC are mysterious and inscrutable."

Con. Heit said the presence of the tracks definitely lowered the value of the nearby property as a residential area, and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, would not advance money on houses built near train tracks.

G. W. Neville, president of the Bayview Property Owners Association said the backyards of many houses in the area are only 50 feet from the tracks. In Faircrest Heights, he said \$50,000 to \$60,000 houses border the line

Report prepared

Roy Bushfield of The Citizens for Ottawa Planning committee said his group was preparing a report on the question of relocation of the Beachburg line. It would be made public in three weeks, he said.

Removal of the line was justified from a cost viewpoint because it would only cost about \$2,000,000 "peanuts" to the railroads, said Mr. Bushfield.

He said the city would give little encouragement to area residents because the city gets more tax revenue from the land used as a rail line than as residential property.

Mr. Bushfield charged the NCC with trying to make Alta Vista "a freight yard".

Mr. Neville said the Bayview association intended to keep up the fight."

Beachburg line not being moved

The National Capital Commission has dealt another strong blow to hopes that the Beachburg Subdivision rail line will be moved in the near future. Homeowners along the line are fighting to have the line torn up, but the NCC stands firm.

In a statement Wednesday, the commission said federal railway relocation plans, announced in 1959, do not call for removal of the Beachburg line.

The line is "required for efficient railway operations and will provide the main westerly access to the new Ottawa station at Hurdman," the NCC said.

"The schedules for implementing remaining major elements of the railway relocation plan are quite critical.

"Studies made by the NCC and the railways as to the possibility of removing the Beachburg subdivision indicated that this would create major operational problems for both railways. . .," the commission stated.

High cost

Removal would cost the federal government plenty, and would delay implementation of the relocation plan already approved as well as redevelopment plans which depend on the relocation program.

"Among the important projects in the national capital which would suffer serious delays are the completion of the Queensway, the construction of a parkway along the east bank of the Rideau Canal from Rideau Street to the Queensway with a connection to Echo Drive, the redevelopment of the present Union Station area and the LeBreton Flats.

"When relocation is completed, about 20 trains a day will travel between Heron Road and the Hurdman station, an increase of four trains per day. The Riverside Park track, between Wass Junction and Heron Road, will carry 14 trains a day, an increase of four per day.

No smoke

The NCC softened the blow to Beachburg residents by concluding: "The character of railway traffic has changed radically in the past 15 years. Smoke and soot are no longer a problem. Noise can be reduced a great deal with appropriate landscaping."

NCC item held up by city council

The National Capital Commission is still in trouble with the city over the Beachburg subdivision railway line.

The city wants the controversial rail line relocated. The NCC says the work would be too expensive.

On Feb. 15, council asked the NCC exactly what the cost would be. The city has not yet received any positive answer.

So, Monday night, council passed a motion that no money be paid for the relocation of Alta Vista Drive, in connection with the proposed federal postal terminal, until the NCC, or someone, comes through with the Beachburg relocation figures.

"Perhaps this will bring matters to a head," said Ald. Don Kay, who has been one of the leaders in the battle to have the line's route changed.

Truck, train in collision

PEMBROKE - Special - No one was injured when a tractor trailer truck collided with a freight train on the Canadian National Railways tracks on Highway 62, just south of here Wednesday.

Police reported Robert Napper, 51, of Pickering said he was blinded by the sun, when he drove the unloaded truck, owned by J and F Truck Rentals.

Scarborough, into the side of the train's engine A fellow passenger Derrick Carson, 52, of Frankford also escaped injury.

The train driven by Engineer Ronald B. Pntchard, 50, of 259 Arlington Ave., Ottawa was held up about an hour on its run to the capital.

Aerial photo.

Highway Kink Going

The troublesome kink in Highway 15 at Bells Corners will be gone and the tunnel under the railway tracks will be replaced by a wide high underpass in this project. The wide curving roadbed along the left of the tracks will carry re-routed rail traffic during construction on the underpass. The temporary road-rail crossing will be guarded by wig-wag signals.

15/10/1965 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Beachburg line. Steamed-up owners renew battle

More than 200 Alta Vista area residents renewed their battle to relocate the Beach-burg subdivision railroad line, at Ridgemont High School Thursday night.

Backed by elected representatives, they endorsed a motion to city council, signed a petition to Governor-General Vanier and received a promise from Progressive Conservative Party leader Diefenbaker.

Aid. Don Kay said he would make the motion at next Monday's council meeting.

The motion resolves that Ottawa purchase running rights of the Beachburg line, including all land and track associated with the line to the Hurdman's terminal site.

Mrs. Eleanor Dunn, chairman of the meeting, said this would give the city control over the line, and make relocation possible.

\$950,000 price

E. R. Bushfield, chairman of Citizens for Ottawa Planning, said the National Capital Commission has agreed to pay \$950,000 for running rights to the line, and the city should be able to buy the rights for the same price.

The motion proposing purchase of running rights lists six arguments for the action:

NCC officials have stated removal of the line would be good city planning.

Prime Minister Pearson has indicated he would not oppose city-railway-NCC negotiations to relocate the line. (But he did urge the city last February to drop the matter until after completion of the new Union Station, Queens-way and four-lane highway linking the Queensway with Confederation Square.)

Lucien Cardin, former minister of public works, said last June the NCC would cooperate in negotiations.

Patients and surgeons [sic] in pay \$950,000 to the new terminal company for the running rights."

Mayor Reid has said, publicly, that he favors negotiations to remove the line

Uatients [sic] and surgeons in the new Riverside Hospital, nearby, will be bothered by vibrations from the railroad.

Loop proposed

Mr. Bushfield argued that construction of a "turning radii" at the southwest corner of the existing merchandising terminal would provide a loop around the station and take the place of the Beachburg line.

Although it would not provide the railroads with the excessive flexibility of the Beachburg line, it would only cost about \$45,000, said Mr. Bushfield, and would not hold up completion of the new station.

Ottawa's share of overpass costs and \$200,000 extra to insulate Riverside Hospital would total \$1,083,000, almost the amount needed to purchase running rights which would make these expenses unnecessary, he said.

It would also halt devaluation of property which has caused an estimated \$3,200,-000 loss to 800 homeowners along the line.

Legal action?

Con. Murray Heit proposed legal action to bring about relocation of the line should council reject the motion Monday.

Mrs. Dunn proposed more militant action, if negotiations fail to materialize, and asked for volunteers.

A spokesman for Bayview Property Owners' Association said the Beachburg line would be discussed at a meeting in Bayview Public School Nov. 4.

The petition circulated appeals to the governor-general, "to use your influence in assisting Ottawa citizens in their effort to have the Beachburg railway line removed."

As at a similar protest meeting at the school last February, the NCC and the railways, Canadian Pacific and Canadian National, were not represented by spokesmen.

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27/10/1965 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Four parties open talks on rail line.

Mayor Reid and officials of CNR, CPR and National Capital Commission were meeting this afternoon to discuss the proposed relocation of the embattled Beachburg subdivision.

The meeting results from a recent city council refusal to accept a government-railway opinion that the relocation of the troublesome rail line would be too expensive. Council insisted the government and both railways give a detailed estimate of the cost of the proposed relocation.

Residents of Alta Vista object to the noisy, unsightly CNR line. They claim expensive residential area has been built on the understanding that NCC planning called for the line to go elsewhere.

Although the Beachburg line is CNR property, both railways will be partners in the Ottawa terminal railway company which will operate the new union station and plan rail routes leaving the station in all directions.

20/11/1965 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Riverside Drive

Ottawa couple escape when freight hits car

An Ottawa man and his wife narrowly escaped injury Friday when their car was struck by a CNR freight train at the crossing on Riverside Drive, and thrown 90 feet.

The car, driven by William Westwick, 25 Lakeside Ave., sports editor of the Ottawa Journal, was going east on Riverside Drive behind a dump truck.

The truck crossed the tracks, then stopped to try and make a left turn. As a result, the Westwick car stopped on the tracks, with the train fast approaching.

Mr. Westwick turned the car to the right and started down the track, followed by the train. Then he braked and both he and his wife, Rita, jumped clear.

The train, with engineer Wallace Goldberg of 33 Brighton Ave., at the controls, was going about 10 to 15 miles per hour when it hit the car, throwing it into the ditch, over Riverside Drive, and into the far ditch.

Approximately \$600 damage was done to the rear of the Westwick vehicle, and \$100 to the front of the train.

Mr. Westwick was on his way to catch a plane to Las Vegas at the time of the accident. He made the flight

03/08/1966 Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Noise of trains angers residents

Increased train traffic to the new station at Hurdman's Bridge is annoying south-end residents.

"The excessive use of fierce, noisy diesel horns is seriously affecting the nerves of the people," said the Heron Park Community Association in a letter to city council.

The Heron Park group urged council to work toward removal of all level crossings in Ottawa, to eliminate the warning blasts from locomotive horns.

Council approved installation of a new warning signal at the Walkley Road crossing, despite complaints from Aid. Don Kay that level crossings were "archaic, dangerous and a nuisance."

The alderman agreed with Mayor Reid that they are less dangerous when protected by signals. But he felt signals are, at best, a temporary measure, until grade separations are built or the tracks removed.

Aid. Kay was not happy with the railway relocation pattern that has come about in Ottawa in recent years.

"All the tracks that were removed from the west end of the city seem to have ended up in the east end," he complained.

The alderman pointed out that trains seemed to be using the new station efficiently without needing to run on the controversial Beachburg Subdivision line.

Mayor Reid said he would call the National 'Capital Commission to ask if the plan to use the Beachburg tracks has been abandoned. He doubted the railways and the NCC were fully satisfied with train access to the station as it is now.

The city is still awaiting a consultant's report by C. C. Parker and Associates on the feasibility of relocating the Beachburg tracks.

03/12/1966 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Bells Corners

Train Hits Car No One Hurt

Two Ottawa men narrowly escaped injury Friday night when they leaped from their car moments before it was demolished by a CNR passenger train at a Bell's Corners level crossing.

Steven Hook of 2164 Plesser St. was southbound on Highway 7 and approaching the crossing when the warning signals began flashing.

He applied his brakes but skidded into one of the signal standards and spun onto the tracks.

Hook and his passenger, Isaac Cornet of 794 Cummings Ave., both saw the approaching train and got out a few seconds before the train slammed into it.

The North Bay-Ottawa train tossed the vehicle off the tracks. The battered car then caught fire and Nepean fire department was called to extinguish the blaze.

The mishap occurred at 9.17 p.m.

06/02/1967 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Billings Avenue

Train hits car, woman escapes Mrs. C. H. Bradwin, of 142 Rachel Ave., escaped serious injury when her car was demolished by a train at the Billings Avenue railroad crossing this morning.

She was admitted to Riverside Hospital for observation.

08/02/1967 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Billings Avenue

Probe sought of warning light at train tracks

Aid. Don Kay has demanded an immediate investigation to find out if warning lights were working during a level-crossing accident on Billings Avenue at the Beachburg Line Monday.

Mrs. C. H. Bradwin of 142 Rachel Ave. escaped serious injury when her car was demolished by a train.

"I have heard rumors that men were working on the warning signal system after the accident," Aid. Kay said. "Were the lights not operating?"

"We should have a full report on this as quickly as possible."

21/06/1967 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Portage du Fort

Derailment Cuts CN Main Line

PORTAGE, DU FORT(Staff) The Canadian National Railways main line was blocked here at 5.30 a.m. today I when a nine-car derailment cut the single track and left four shattered boxcars in the middle of the right-of-way

Fire broke out when a box-car of sulphur split open. Flames were brought under control , before spreading to other cars.

114-car train

The unexplained derailment occurred near the middle of a 114-car eastbound freight train, a quarter of a mile west of the railway station. A tank car and boxcar, both carrying sulphur, were ditched south the line.

The next three boxcars stacked up side-by-side at right angles to and straddling the track. The next car telescoped on impact and two more were derailed but remained upright; apparently undamaged.

The ninth car, ahead of the main wreckage, broke loose and "rode the ties" for 200 yards before coming to rest.

ESCAPE UNHURT

Conductor Fred Swinwood and engineer. Jack Nielson, both of Ottawa, and other crew members escaped injury.

The front half of the twin diesel unit powered train went on to Ottawa.

Railway officials would not estimate how long the line would be blocked.

Trains have been rerouted over Canadian Pacific lines.

Heavy auxiliary equipment has been despatched here from Belleville

In the meantime, two bull dozers are being used to move some of the wreckage.

22/06/1967 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Portage du Fort

CNR Line Reopened To Traffic

PORTAGE DU FORT. Que. The Canadian National Railways main line. cut here Wednesday morning by a freight train derailment, was reopened for traffic early today.

Heavy equipment was brought from Belleville to clear the line and re-lay 300 feet of up rooted track

Four battered boxcars littered the single track after nine cars left the rails.

Two were ditched and three remain standing on the ties.

Cause of the wreck has not been officially announced.

14/09/1967 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Woodroffe

Vandals pelting CNR trains

Canadian National Railways police are looking for rock-throwing vandals who are breaking windows on speeding trains near the Woodroffe Anue crossing.

R. E. Beaty, special agent in charge of the CNR's investigation department in Ottawa, said yesterday vandals had broken one window on an eastbound Super-Continental train at the crossing last Saturday.

They had pelted another trans-continental train the previous Saturday, breaking a number of windows. No injuries were reported in either incident.

Photo Auto hurtled off bridge

Car rests on shoreline after plunging 20 feet from bridge

Girl dies, mother injured when car struck by train

By Dave Smithers *Citien* staff writer

A 2 1/2 year-old Ottawa girl was killed and her mother injured late Tuesday afternoon when their car was struck by a passenger train at a Walkley Road level crossing.

Dead is Andrea Louise Traversy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Traversy of 2636 Colman St. There are five other children in the family.

Her mother, Mr. Netta Traversy, 44, driver of the car, is in good condition at Riverside Hospital with shoulder injuries.

Short skid marks led to the crossing between McCarthy Road and Riverside Drive on Walkley Road where the eastbound car was hit by the southbound Canadian Pacific Railway's Canadian about 4.40 p.m.

The car was dragged 675 feet by the train. The Canadian was just 15 minutes out of Ottawa station when the accident occurred.

The child was thrown from the car on impact. Her body was found 100 feet from the crossing in the ditch beside the tracks. Mrs. Traversy was still in the car when police arrived.

The CPR train was driven by Andre Labre, 55, of 25 Wright St., Hull, who said that he was travelling at 40 miles an hour in 45 m.p.h. zone.

CPR officials, who arrived shortly after the accident, said the red signal lights at the crossing were in working order.

The lights were activated when another train came through the crossing shortly after 5.30 p.m. after the car wreckage had been cleared and the Canadian moved.

An eye-witness, Ian Roy, 13, of 655 Farmington Ave., said he was walking home along the side of the tracks when he "heard an awful crash."

"I turned around and saw the car being shoved along the tracks in front of the train," he said.

He estimated the speed of the train at 45 m.p.h. when he first saw it. Area residents said that was an average speed for trains at that crossing.

Other witnesses said it appeared the car stalled on the tracks as the train approached.

The accident held up homeward bound traffic for almost an hour.

21/06/1968 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Jury rules death car had mechanical defects.

A car-train accident March 26 on the controversial Beachburg Line in which a little girl was killed has prompted a plea for regular mechanical inspection of rented automobiles.

A coroner's jury made the recommendation after hearing evidence that a rented car driven by Mrs. Raymond Traversy, 2636 Coleman Ave., stalled on railway tracks crossing Walkley Road and was struck by a southbound train.

Andrea Traversy, 2, was thrown from the car by the impact and died instantly of multiple injuries. Witnesses said Mrs. Traversy appeared to have trouble with the car in a shopping centre near the railway crossing several minutes before the 4.30 p.m. accident.

David Cox of 995 Walkley Rd. said he was standing in the Riverside Shopping Centre when he first noticed the woman.

Troubles noted

"She seemed to be having trouble starting the car and then, when she did get it going, she couldn't get it up a small hill. She stalled it in the intersection, too."

Andre Labre of 25 Wright St.,- Hull, engineer on the eight-car Canadian National . passenger train out of Ottawa, said he saw the car approaching the crossing as the train came- out of a curve.

"I saw the car coming slowly and stop right on the tracks," he said. "I put the emergency brake on and we hit it."

The train carried the car more than 800 feet down the tracks before coming to a stop. Mrs. Traversy was pulled from the wrecked car, by the train crew. Her child had been thrown from the vehicle on impact.

Raymond Traversy, father of the dead child, said he had leased the car from Argus Rent-A-Car, 300 Richmond Rd., and experienced some difficulty driving it.

"I had a little trouble getting used to the automatic stick shift on the floor," he said.

"Also, I noticed I had to put more pressure on the brakes than normal."

Police examined the car after the accident and found bald spots on the tires and evidence that the carburetor had been overhauled.

The jury ruled that the rented car was not in good mechanical condition and recommended that a law be enacted requiring mechanical inspection of rented cars before leasing.

It recommended reduction of the train's speed limit, now 45 miles per hour where the accident occurred, to 20 mph in city limits.

19/08/1968 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Fitzroy Harbor*

Man killed in mishap

A man was killed about 10.50 a.m. today when his car struck a train near Fitzroy Harbor.

The OPP detachment at Bells Corners had no further details at noon today.

09/11/1968 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Cedarview Road*

Two brothers die as train crushes jeep

Two brothers died of multiple injuries Friday when the jeep they were riding was smashed to pieces by a train at the intersection of the Base Line and Cedarview Roads about 1.20 p.m.

Killed were the driver, 24-year-old Royal Ernest Montpetit, married with two children, of 740 Springland Dr., and his brother, Maurice, 16, who was living with their mother, Mrs. Rose Montpetit, 2045 Base Line Rd.

The eastbound train blew its whistle before reaching the crossing, report Nepean Township Police. The speed limit for trains there is 60 miles an hour.

Police said the red signal lights were flashing and the warning bell ringing at the crossing when the jeep entered it.

The jeep disintegrated along the north side of the track. "There's nothing left of it," said police. "Parts of it are spread all over the place."

The locomotive, driven by Robert Whitmore, 658 Somerset St. West, was not damaged.

Half-million subsidy for rail bridge

The proposed \$871,000 railway bridge over Highway 7 and 15 just north of Bells Corners has been taken another step to ward reality with the Canadian Transportation Commission's announcement of a \$500,000 subsidy.

Plans for the grade separation began in 1965 and suffered setbacks in tangles between various official bodies, including Canadian National and Canadian Pacific, Nepean Township, Ontario Highways department and the transportation commission's railway committee.

Construction will begin some time in 1969, Walter Wigle, program engineer with the highways department, said Thursday. Construction is expected to take between 21 and 27 months.

"There have been considerable problems in co-ordinating the project," said Mr. Wigle. "There are still a few engineering problems to be solved."

Decision reversed

A major hangup was the reversal of the earlier decision, backed by Nepean, the railways and highways department, to build a second grade separation at the Cedarview Road, just east of the highway crossing.

Two nunters were killed at the Cedarview crossing recently when their vehicle was smashed by a train.

The main railway bridge will be built just past Ottawa city limits, immediately south of Baseline Road.

It is expected to be similar to the CPR bridge over the same highway just west of Bells Corners.

It was the Canadian Transportation Commission's railway committee which decided against the Cedarview railway bridge. The decision was reached after an inspection of the crossing a year ago indicated traffic was too light to warrant construction of the grade separation.

An alternative possibility is that Nepean would close off Cedarview and require motorists to use service roads to go around via the Highway 7 underpass or Woodroffe Avenue.

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Man dies as train hit scar

A 33-year-old Dunrobin man was killed instantly near his home Thursday night when his car was rammed at a level crossing by a Canadian National Railway freight train.

Dead is Sterling Joseph Campbell of RR2, Dunrobin.

Provincial police say the car was southbound on a county road between Torbolton and March Townships about one mile west of Dunrobin when it was struck by the eastbound train at 9.45 p.m.

Mr. Campbell, who was alone in his car, was pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Dr. J. A. Thomson. An inquest will be held into the death.

The car, which was struck on its right side by the front of the train, was thrown 100 feet by the impact.

Engineer Joseph Galipeau, 48, of 6 Elgin St., Lucerne, told police the tram was travelling about 60 m.p.h. when he saw the car at the crossing.

He said emergency brakes were used but the train was unable to stop in time.

Police say there were no skidmarks leading up to the crossing, which is unguarded and does not have flashing warning lights.

Jusy urges automatic barrier for crossing

An automatic barrier should be " installed at the Cedarview Road railway ' crossing near Bells Corners where two young hunters were killed last fall, a coroner's jury recommended at a Tuesday night inquest.

The jury found that existing conditions at the cross ing lend themselves to a recurrence of an accident similar to that which took the lives of Royal Montpe- tit, 24, of 740 Sprangland Dr., and his 17-year-old brother, Maurice, of 2045 Baseline Rd.

Both men, who were returning from a deer-hunting trip, were killed instantly Nov. 8 when their small jeep, northbound on Cedarview Road, was rammed by an, eastbound Canadian National Railways train.

Police testified before Coroner Dr. W. T. Kendall that both men were thrown from their vehicle after the 1.30 p.m. impact and were pronounced dead at the scene.

The inquest was into the death of the driver, Royal Montpetit, who died of multiple injuries.

The five-man jury found Mr. Montpetit met his death through his own misfortune because he did not see an approaching train.

Train parked near

It seems probable that he thought another train, parked in a siding about 300 feet east of the crossing, activated the warning signals and that he was not aware of the other train approaching at high speed from the west, the. jury's verdict said.

One witness, an off-duty Gloucester Township policeman, Constable Wayne Stinson, was driving north on Cedarview about one-quarter mile from the crossing when he saw the warning lights.

He said he assumed the lights were activated by the stationary train to the east of the crossing. Constable Stinson stopped at the crossing and then saw the train coming from the west

He said he drove over the tracks and saw, in his rearview mirror jeep driven by Mr. Montpetit following him.

Other witnesses said the jeep was travelling toward the crossing at between five and 10 m.p.h.. and made no indication it was going to stop.

Jeep disintegrates

The jeep disintegrated when it was hit by the 26-car train, said engineer Robert Whitmore of 658 Somerset St. West, to be travelling about 55 m.p.h.

Speed limit for trains at this point is 60 m.p.h. Limit for cars on Cedarview is 25 m.p.h., said police.

Mr. Whitmore said he heard both train whistle and bell operating as he approached the crossing. Other CNR employees confirmed that the warning flashing lights were operating and were not being activated by the stationary train.

The electrical mechanism that triggers the lights does not come into operation until a train is 113 feet from the crossing, they said. Other evidence revealed the stationary train was parked about 300 feet east of Cedarview Road.

14/02/1969 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Pembroke*

Icy road noted in collision that killed man

PEMBROKE (Special) A coroner's jury has attached no blame to the Canadian National Railways at an inquest into the death of an area man.

Garnet Welsenberg, 38, of RR 5, Pembroke, was killed Jan. 20 when his half-ton truck collided with a train at a level crossing on a sideroad seven miles south of hear near Highway 62.

Police testified Thursday that there is a slight rise to the crossing and that the road was icy at the time.

Train fireman Donald Walter Courtney, of 487 Cooper St., Ottawa, said the Weisenberg vehicle approached the train slowly and did not stop.

Engineer Maurice Gaffney, of 23 Oakville Ave., Ottawa, said the train was travelling about 45 miles per hour at the time.

The jury made no recommendations.

05/03/1969 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Dunrobin*

Deaf mute killed at crossing

The need for signal lights at a railway crossing near . Dunrobin where a motorist was killed Jan. 2 should be studied, a coroner's jury has recommended.

The five-man jury was inquiring at an inquest Tuesday night into the death of James Sterling Campbell, 33, of RR2 Dunrobin.

Evidence showed, the man, a deaf mute, died in the wreckage of his car when it was rammed by an eastbound freight train travelling about 60 m.p.h.

The accident occurred at 9.35 p.m. after a car driven by Mr. Campbell failed to stop for the CNR train as it crossed the March-Torbolton Township Road about one-half mile south of its intersection with County Road 9, said police.

Road icy at time

Evidence presented before Coroner Dr. J. A. Thomson showed that there are no warning lights at the crossing and that road conditions were icy on either side of the tracks.

Train engineer Joseph Galipeau of 6 Elgin St., Lucerne, testified that he saw the southbound car approaching the crossing and yelled to his assistant to apply the emergency brakes.

Mr. Galipeau said the train's bell horn and headlight were working, but the dead man's family agreed that he relied only on his vision.

A .pathologist testified

The jury attached no blame for the accident.

14/03/1969 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Car-train collision blank spot

The driver of a car that collided with a CNR train Dec. 4, told a coroner's jury Thursday he couldn't remember any of the details of the, accident which took the life of his 20-year-old passenger.

Peter Vanderspank, 41, of 70 Barrette St., Vanier City, told Coroner Dr. W. T. Kendall that he and Charles William Craven, 20, of RR2, North Gower, had been fishing at Constance Lake in Marsh Township for about an hour and a half the morning of the accident.

Mr. Craven died of multiple injuries and was declared dead at the scene.

They were travelling along a concession road near County Road 9 when the accident occurred at noon.

Mr. Vanderspank said he had no recollection of the accident at all, but he did remember driving along the road.

He said the windows and windshield were clear at the time.

Train engineer Erwin McElroy of 634 Westview St., said he saw the car approach the crossing at about 20 m.p.h.

The train, travelling 55 m.p.h., was about; 1,500 feet from the crossing and the car about 500 feet when he first spotted it

The train's whistle had been sounding for about a quarter of a mile, Mr. Mc Elroy said, and he assumed the car would stop,

When he realized the vehicle was not reducing speed, he instructed , fireman Donald Brockington to apply, the emergency brakes

In delivering its verdict, the jury said it could not determine why Mr. Vanderspank, who was seriously in jured in the collision, did I not come to a stop.

There were no recommendations and no blame attached to Mr. McElroy orI Mr. Brockington.

16/06/1969 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

Constable escapes train crash

Constable K. J. Pidgeon of Ottawa Ontario Provincial Police detachment escaped with scratches when his police cruiser ran into a freight train at a level crossing on County Road 9 at Kanata about noon Saturday.

"I guess he didn't see it," said the investigating corporal.

The northbound car was thrown, heavily damaged, into a ditch by the east-bound Canadian National Railways freight which then stopped. The train was only lightly damaged.

The crossing does not have any automatic signals, police said. The constable was going to an accident when the collision occurred.

22/07/1969 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

Underpass ends need of train horn

The annoying wail of die-sel locomotive horns may soon end along part of the Beachburg Subdivision railway line.

The Canadian Transport Commission refused to interfere with diesel-horn blowing until the Spring land Drive-Cromwell Road pedestrian underpass was built. The underpass is now in operation.

City council will ask the transport commission to ban diesel tooting on the Beach burg Line between Innes Road and Riverside Drive, a distance of 7.2 track-miles.

Diesel-horn blowing is prohibited at most crossings on other railway lines inside the city.

26/09/1969 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Fitzroy Harbor

Train crash blamed on victim

A coroner's jury found Thursday night that an Ottawa man was partially responsible for his death at a level crossing accident Aug 19.

The jury, probing the death of Aionzo Frederick Vance, 39, of 42 Melrose Ave., recommended that signs be erected within 100 feet of either side of the railway crossing where the mishap occurred.

Mr. Vance died Just after 11 a.m. when his car stopped on the tracks where they cross the little-travelled Town Line between Torbolton and Fitzroy Townships.

Police evidence showed the tracks can be seen for a quarter of a mile in either direction when a car is within three-tenths of a mile of the crossing.

Engineer Daniel Kelly told the inquest he began sounding the train's whistle about one-quarter-mile from the crossing and at that time first noticed the car. When he was within 200 hundred feet he noticed the car had stopped on the track.

He applied the 19-car freight train's emergency brakes, bringing it to halt more than one-half- mile beyond the point of impact.

20/05/1970 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Woodlawn

The Bells Corners provincial police detachment went into high gear just before 8 a.m. when a pickup truck rammed a moving freight train at the Canadian National Railway crossing on County Road Nine, near Wood-lawn. The driver, not yet identified, is in serious condition at Civic Hospital.

From Ottawa Journal same date

Driver Hurt As Truck Hits Train

A 34-year-old truck driver is In fair condition in Civic Hospital following a train-truck collision at Woodlawn today.

The driver, identified only as Mr. Jassen by Ottawa, OPP, was driving a half-ton truck belonging to Marchmount Construction Ltd. on County Road 20.

At the CNR crossing in Wood-lawn, he apparently drove the truck into the side of an Ottawa-bound freight train.

There was no indication by noon from the Civic on the nature of the man's injuries.

A CNR spokesman said the freight train was able to continue on to Ottawa following the accident.

10 cars flip the rails- only 13 injured

By Bert Hill and Chris Vernell Citizen staff writers

Only two persons were detained in hospital following the derailment of the crack Canadian National Super Continental train, 20 miles west of Ottawa late Tuesday afternoon.

Ten cars left the track one flipped over on its side about a mile from the village of Dunrobin. The engine and another car stayed on the tracks. More than 500 yards of track was ripped apart or thrown out of alignment.

CNR police are investigating the accident. Its cause is undetermined but it is known that it started with the back wheels of the locomotive.

A CNR spokesman said today he doubted the rails were responsible for the pileup. They were laid less than three years ago a short time in the life of railway track.

It is expected to re-open the line to traffic travelling at reduced speeds by late Thursday night.

CP Rail tracks will be used until the cleanup is completed.

The CNR spokesman said estimates of damage have not yet been made, but added it would have been kept to a minimum because of deep snow which cushioned the impacts. Each passenger car is valued at \$250,000.

Thirteen persons received treatment for minor cuts and bruises at two Ottawa hospitals. Gordon Hamilton, 60, of Montreal, and Evelyn McPhail, 54, of Melville, Neb., were admitted to Civic Hospital. Mr. Hamilton suffered a wrenched back while Miss McPhail, who suffered a bump to her head, was held for observation.

The train was carrying 160 passengers.

House shook

Mrs. Frances Kavanagh, who lives a quarter-mile east of the straight stretch of road where the accident occurred, was preparing supper at the time of the derailment at 5.30 p.m.

Mrs. Kavanagh said she did not realize the train was off the rails until her son told her.

A passenger staggered into the house about 6 p.m., she said, having walked across the field. Later, two youths on a snowmobile brought train conductor Paul Machy over so he could telephone Ottawa for assistance.

Other snowmobilers brought injured people over to ambulances waiting by the house. Some of the injured were carried across by stretcher in the subzero weather.

A special three-car relief train arrived about 8.30 and returned to Ottawa with the weary, anxious passengers shortly after 11 p.m.

Conductor Machy said no one panicked in the confusion. Passengers were moved into an observation car and a parlor car to wait for rescuers.

At Ottawa Station, the passengers, many of whom had had nothing to eat since noon, were fed and bundled on special trains to continue their east-bound journey.

(See also page 17)

Supper time saves trains passengers

By Bert Hill Citizen staff writer

Supertime saved countless people from serious injury when the CNR's Super Continental jumped the tracks near Dunrobin Tuesday.

The only sleeping car No. 20 to flip over on its side in the derailment contained only two persons. The rest had gone to the diner at the first call

"I was standing with my hand on the door," said Francis Lemieux, 68, of Longlac, Ont., one of the 160 passengers.

"One moment I was standing upright, the next my head was on the floor. I'm never going to forget that.

"First I wanted to smash a window because I was afraid of gas, but then I discovered I was standing on the window."

Mr. Lemieux tried to reach a woman, the only other occupant of the badly damaged car, who was crying with pain from a shoulder injury. "But there was luggage and shoes and stuff all over the place and I got tangled in the curtains."

All the lights were out in the car, he said, but finally he helped her by pushing her out by her legs.

Ray Story of Scarborough said his greatest fear was that his car would derail. "We could hear the rails splitting, and in our car the berths were coming down. "

"Some people were injured in the washrooms or in between cars."

Everything flew

Glen Cheriton, travelling from Edmonton, said two tables broke loose in the dining car and cutlery and dishes flew off the tables.

Despite all the flying missiles, only one person, a steward, was hurt, while one of the waiters may have been scalded.

Two students, Ellen Hagenan, 21, and her brother Rob, 22, of Seattle, Wash., were on their way to Montreal to visit their parents.

Rob said the track was straight at the accident site and the train appeared to be moving at 35 miles an hour.

"It felt like it was braking badly. The shocks increased and then everything was thrown around in the dining car.

"It was quite exciting. I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

But for one passenger, who declined to identify himself, it was just another annoyance in a trip running behind schedule.

"There was a lot of shaking; we heard a lot of rumbling and then we waited for three hours to get out."

A relief train had brought the passengers to Ottawa from the accident site.

Supertime saves train's passengers (with photo)

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30/12/1970

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Dunrobin

CNR SUPER CONTINENTAL DERAILED with picture

Eight cars of the 12-car Super Continental left the tracks near Dunrobin, Ont., 20 miles northwest of Ottawa, slightly injuring 15 persons. The passenger train, travelling east on the Vancouver-Montreal run derailed about 500 yards from the nearest road. Snowmobiles were used to carry the injured to ambulances after the early evening wreck. The eight cars which left the tracks came to rest in deep snow, about 20 feet from the rails. At the current Canadian Transport Commissions safety hearings, Chairman D. H. Jones criticized the CNR for the handling of safety procedures following the derailment.

30/01/1971

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Dunrobin

CN must Shape up

By The Canadian Press

The Canadian transport commission laced into Canadian National Railways Friday for its handling of safety procedures following a passenger train derailment last month.

Commission chairman D. H. Jones said he was "gravely concerned" about the unclear lines of authority and responsibility in the company that were evident following a derailment of the Super Continental near Dunrobin Dec. 29.

He called on CNR to clarify "the responsibility and authority of officers of the company who have direct concern in dealing with accidents."

A commission investigation had shown that the accident occurred at 5.30 p.m. about 25 miles west of Ottawa. The relief train did not arrive at the scene until 9 p.m.

Further, the investigation showed, "the first call for an ambulance to treat injured people was received at 7 p.m. from a man who lived along the railway track." During the commission's special inquiry into railway safety, it had asked both CNR and CP Rail to explain procedures followed when accidents took place, Mr. Jones said.

"We have been reassured by CP. But we regret to say we are not reassured by CN."

The commission considered the matter "so urgent and so serious" that it decided to convey its observations to the company, Mr. Jones told the special inquiry.

Mr. Jones said he was "not at all clear" how that function was carried out by CNR.

Earlier in the inquiry, Commissioner J. W. Woodard asked CN's transportation chief Charles Armstrong why there had been the long delay in dealing with the Dunrobin derailment.

"I can see a possible delay of two hours. But that certainly doesn't justify three hours and a half to go 24 miles with a relief train that consisted of a locomotive and a couple of coaches," Mr. Woodard said.

Mr. "Armstrong said all the details of the accident are still not known by CNR.

"I am not going to accuse you of being evasive, but it seems to me that this accident occurred a month ago and you don't seem to have as much information about it right now as we do," replied Mr. Woodard.

23/03/1971

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Dunrobin

Train crash aid delay blamed on information

By The Canadian Press

Fragmentary information from the scene of a train derailment at Dunrobin, Ont.. last Dec. 29 helped delay dispatch of a relief train to the accident, the Canadian transport commission was told today.

K. E. Hunt, vice-president of transportation and maintenance for CNR said:

"Too much reliance was placed on fragmentary reports at the early stage. We expect better than this from our people."

About nine cars on a CNR passenger train were derailed at Dunrobin, 23 miles west of Ottawa. The derailment led to only minor injuries.

The CNR vice-president placed no blame on the train crew.

14/04/1971

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Greenbank Road

JUMPED THE TRACKS

Six cars of an Ottawa-bound freight train jumped the tracks on the CNR's main line near the Greenbank Road crossing around 7.20 a.m. today. No one was injured in the mishap, which saw four of the cars land on their sides. A CN spokesman said the tracks should be clear later this afternoon. Cause of the accident is under investigation.

(Journal Photo by Dominion Wide)

18/05/1971

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

CNR Line Blocked 12 Hours

Pembroke (Special) A railway derailment injured an Ottawa man and blocked the CNR main line for 14 hours Monday

Russell Edgely, believed to be from Ottawa, suffered cuts and bruises as the caboose in which he was riding along with three other cars went off the rails near Brent, 50 miles west of here.

The caboose rolled down an embankment injuring Mr. Edgely, who is in good condition in hospital here and Fred White of Pembroke who was treated and released.

The noon hour incident involving an express train which carries no passengers closed the line between Ottawa and North Bay until about 2 a.m. today and all traffic was routed over the CP rail lines.

10/08/1971

Ottawa Journal

Beachburg

Pembroke

Pair ride 600 miles locked in mail car

PEMBROKE (Staff) young couple rode in from the west locked in a mail car on a CNR transcontinental train Sunday night.

The 20-year-old man from Folyette and, 17-year-old girl from Peterbell were released by Pembroke police after attracting attention of railway employees at Pembroke Junction by pounding on the mail car door.

Pembroke Police Chief Bert Dickie did not reveal their names.

The couple boarded the car while the train was being made up at Hornepayne, 600 miles northwest of Pembroke. The car door was later sealed.

Chief, Dickie said the travellers were in good condition

He did not know how they intended to return to their homes.

19/01/1972

Ottawa Citizen

Beachburg

Grants approved for train signals

The Canadian transport commission has approved grants for automatic train-warning signal systems at CNR crossings on Cedarview Road and Strandherd Drive in Nepean.

The \$11,920 for the Cedarview Road crossing and \$11,400 for the one on Strandherd Drive are part of a total national grant of \$374,810 for traffic safety projects at railway crossings.

20/03/1972 *Ottawa Citizen*

Beachburg

Pembroke

Railway riding snowmobiler killed by train

PEMBROKE (Staff) A last-minute attempt to steer his snowmobile from railway tracks near here cost a Pembroke man his life Saturday at 10 p.m.

Wallace Herman Nieman, 29, of RR6, was cut down by an eastbound freight train.

The man was among a party of five snowmobilers which provincial police said was travelling Canadian National Railway tracks in an area about 10 miles southwest of here.

Four of the snowmobilers obviously heard the train approaching at about 45 m.p.h. and steered and dragged their machines from the lines.

Mr. Nieman apparently continued along the tracks, trying to steer away from them. The train overtook him before he could jump clear.

An inquest is expected.

A CN spokesman said today the company's own security officials are also investigating the incident.

It has been company policy in the past to prosecute snowmobile operators trespassing on railway property.

13/06/1973 *Ottawa Citizen*

Beachburg

Norway Bay

Car-train crash at Norway Bay kills 3 children .

NORWAY BAY (Special) -- A car-train crash Tuesday claimed three lives when a car driven by Mrs. Maurice Jobin, 30, was struck by a CNR train at an unprotected level crossing on the main line about a mile from her home here.

Dead are Pierrette Lauin, 15, and Ricky Proulx, 15, Mrs. Jobin's foster children, and a companion, Anne Poole, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Poole of Ottawa.

The three were killed instantly when the car was thrown 150 feet by the impact of the collision. Mrs. Jobin was thrown, still seat-belted, clear of the car with part of the front seat She is in satisfactory condition in Ottawa Civic Hospital suffering from a fractured right clavicle, a punctured lung and first and second degree burns.

Mrs. Jobin was travelling west on a road parallel to the tracks when she turned north into the path of the west-bound train. Witnesses said she seemed to hesitate as the car approached the tracks, but apparently didn't hear the train's warning whistle.

28/06/1973 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

Brent

Derailement forces CN to reroute

PEMBROKE (Staff) - It will be about two days before stretch of Canadian National Railways track 80 miles west of here is back in service following the derailment Tuesday night of CNR's Trans-Continental. Two locomotives, a baggage car and two passenger coaches left the track near Brent in Algonquin Park but remained up right. A woman passenger was taken to hospital in Pembroke with slight injuries. About 600 feet of track were damaged, in the derailment, which apparently was caused by a washout following a violent electrical storm earlier in the day. Trains are being rerouted along a CP Rail line.

29/06/1973 *Ottawa Journal*

Beachburg

Brent

TRAIN DERAILED PEMBROKE Canadian National Railways has been forced to reroute trains in Algonquin Park following following a derailment Tuesday about 80 miles west of Pembroke. Repairs were expected to be completed today. The derailment was caused by a washout following a storm earlier in the day. One woman passenger was treated for shock in Pembroke hospital. (CP Journal wirephoto)

21/09/1973 *Ottawa Citizen*

Beachburg

Train ruins truck but three men spared

Andre Lavictoire thought he might ride the back of the truck for the return journey.

His change of mind saved his life.

Several minutes after the switch he was scrambling from the cab of the truck the only part intact after the vehicle collided with a train.

Mr. Lavictoire and his two companions escaped serious injury alter ihe truck hit the train and landed in a 15-foot ditch at 8:45 a.m. today. Mr. Lavictoire, 22. of 2231 Walkley Rd.. Lionel Trepanier, 29. of 40 Coailier St.. Hull, and Brian Armstrong; of R.R. 3, Kinburn, climbed from the ditch with only minor cuts to their hands and faces.

The driver. Mr. Trepanier. said he and his companions were retuning to Microsystems Ltd. on Moodie Drive alter having dumped some garbage for the firm at the Nepean dump.

Brakes failed

Mr. Trepanier said they were approaching the rail crossing at 60 m.p.h. when the crossing lights flashed and the warning bells signalled. Mr. Trepanier said the truck brakes failed.

The truck slid along the shoulder of the road, rammed a post, and the right front hit the train. The truck was spun around by the impact and pushed backwards into the ditch.

Mr. Armstrong, who opened the passenger door when the bnkes failed, was thrown from the vehicle by the impact. He landed in the ditch beside the truck.

Mr. Lavictoire dived for the floor of the cab.

"I had my eyes closed. I heard the glass smash and metal grind, and when I opened my eyes. I looked at Lionel and he looked at me and we asked each other if he was all right."

Mr. Lavictoire and Mr. Armstrong are Microsystems employees. They had been assigned to accompany Mr. Trepanier to the dump.

Mr. Trepanier is employed by the truck owners, Mac's Moving and Transfer.

Because the truck hit lthe ditch backwards the cab remained relatively intact. The rest of the vehicle was destroyed.

The train sustained engine damage but was able to proceed to the Walkley yard of Canadian National Railways.

"It's a miracle no one was hurt when you see a mess like that," said CN constable Vincent Loney.

"That's the last time I go to the dump." said Mr. Lavictoire.

29/09/1973 *Ottawa Citizen*

Beachburg

RAILWAY EXCURSION to PEMBROKE

Sunday October 14th

by Speciol Canadian National Train Sponsored by BYTOWN RAILWAY SOCIETY

Spend a day of leisure viewing the beautiful Ottawa Valley in its Autumn splendor.

Lv Ottawa 8.00 a.m. Arr Pembroke 11.10 a.m.

Lv Pembroke 2.00 p.m. Arr Ottawa 5.00 p.m.

Fare Adults \$9.50 Children under 12 \$5

Tickets ond information from HOBBYLAND 93 O'Connor 234-7274

Woodlawn man killed by train

A car-train collision Saturday on RR9, near Constance Bay, claimed the life of a 29-year-old Woodlawn area man.

Dead is Larry Fletcher of RR 2, Woodlawn..

Ottawa OPP said the collision occurred about 9.31 a.m. at the Malwood Crossing - about two miles north of Kennedy's Corners on the Constance Bay Road.

Police said the car driven by Mr. Fletcher struck a west-bound Canadian National freight.

The victim's car was thrown about 150 feet into a ditch by the freight, pinning him in the wreckage.

Coroner Dr. W. T. Kendall will decide if an inquest is to be held.

Constable Pierre Bernier is investigating the accident

None of the 70-car freight was derailed and no injuries were reported among the train crew.

26/04/1974 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Merivale Road*

CN Train slices tractor trailer driver escapes without a scratch

A 19-year old truck driver miraculously escaped injury today when his tractor trailer was sliced in half by a CN train in a "bad dream" accident.

Rejean Lafrance 29, was driving along Merivale Road when the cab of his truck was knocked clear by a CN passenger train at a crossing near Capital Drive.

Lucien Turpin, 30, who was driving another truck at the time said "I was driving in front of my friend about 6-10 this morning when 25 feet away from the crossing the red light started to flash.

"It was too close to apply my brakes. I thought about braking but it was impossible to stop in time and I didn't want to stop my friend behind me.

"I looked in my rear mirror, saw the train coming and then half of the truck flying away."

He said his friend remained in the cab section of the trailer at all times, and that when he went to check on him "He didn't have a scratch on him."

When asked if he saw the train coming, Mr. Turpin said, "All I saw was the lights and the train in my side mirror."

By 8 a.m. the two halves of the truck had been hauled away and all that was left were the bales of paper strewn for about a fifth of a mile along the wreck.

No one in the train was injured.

Tractor-trailer sliced by train.

A tractor-trailer was sliced in half today in a collision with a CN passenger train at a crossing on Merivale Road at Capital Drive in Nepean. Truck driver Rejean LaFrance, employed by Thurso Pulp and Paper Co., jumped to safety and no one was hurt on the train.

Citizen photos by Barry Gravelle

03/02/1975 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Dunrobin*

Damage \$250,000 in derailment

By SHEILA BRADY Journal Reporter A Canadian National freight train ran off the track near Dunrobin on the Constance Bay Road early Saturday night causing an estimated. \$250,000 damage.

None of the four crew men were injured in the 9 p.m. mishap, which derailed 26 of the 77-car freight train.

No cause for the mishap has been made public yet but CN and the Canadian Transport Commission are investigating. The derailment blocked the Constance Bay road for approximately half an hour Saturday evening.

Eric Summers, CN track supervisor ruled out the possibility, of an ice buildup causing the accident

Cement ties

The train was carrying cement ties and cement mix. "There were no combustible gases; in fact the tankers were empty and being towed back to be refilled," said Mr. Summers.

Approximately 60 CN employees worked all night in the 20-below-zero. temperatures to clear the track of the twisted metal and broken box cars.

Auxiliary trains from Montreal end Capreol, north of Sudbury travelled to Dunrobin to lift the cars off the track.

Debris was strewn over a quarter of a mile and piled more than 30 feet high.

CN police patrolled the site all night to keep back the curious, but no reports of looting were reported.

The Ottawa-Pembroke line was cleared of debris by midnight Saturday and open for the 22 freight trains which use the track daily.

But it will be days before all of the broken cars are cleared from the sides of the track.

The Ottawa-Pembroke line's last mishap was four years ago when a passenger train ran off the tracks approximately four miles from the site of the weekend accident.

03/02/1975 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Constance Bay*

Freight Train Jumps Track

A Canadian National freight train derailment threw 26 cars off the track and tore up at least 700 feet of rail on the Ottawa to Pembroke line near Constance Bay Saturday night.

Damages have been estimated at \$250,000, but there were no injuries. A broken rail or a buildup of ice are suspected as the cause of the accident.

The cars, part of a 77-unit freight train bound for Edmonton, jumped the tracks at 9 p.m. at March Township Concession Road 3, 20 miles west of Ottawa.

Mrs. Waltrut Davis, who lives near the scene of the derailment, said her house shook and she thought a plane had crashed.

"It went on like a long rumble for several seconds," she said. "It moved the chair I was sitting in."

The derailed cars were boxcars holding concrete railroad ties, tank cars with dry cement, and empty propane tankers.

Two cranes have been called in to clear up the wreckage, and the rail line is expected to be open late this afternoon.

Caption to photo

26 cars jump tracks - damage \$250,000

Canadian National crews were clearing the tracks today after 26 cars of a 77-car freight train jumped the tracks and ripped up 700 feet of rail on the Ottawa-Pembroke line near Constance Bay Saturday. CN trains are being rerouted over Canadian Pacific lines until the tracks are cleared, probably later today. The accident, which caused about \$250,000 damage, was attributed to a broken rail or a buildup of ice.

05/12/1975 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg**Pembroke*

Train, car in collision

PEMBROKStaff - Sigurthor Sigurdson, 58 of Riddell Street, Ottawa, was admitted to Pembroke Civic Hospital Thursdays after "a hell of a bumpy ride" for half a mile along the main CNR line with his car hooked on the front end of a diesel locomotive.

Stationed in Pembroke by the Women's [sic] Compensation Board from the beginning of the postal strike Mr. Sigurdson- was on his way to his office when his car locked horns with a freight train at a level crossing on Highway 17, six miles east of Pembroke.

OPP constable Andre Rousseau said a front wheel of the car was hooked by a snow deflector on the lead locomotive of a 65-car freight train.

By the time engineer Floyd Walker of Ottawa was able to stop the 4,770-ton train, the front engine, with Mr. Sigurdson's car still attached, had gone half a mile past the crossing.

Mr. Sigurdson who was not wearing a seat belt was still behind the steering wheel.

Conductor Tom Drummey of Ottawa estimated the cost of repairing the locomotive at \$800.

Mr. Sigurdson, who suffered a broken collar bone was reported to be in fair condition.

29/05/1976 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

Man injured by train

An 18-year-old Nepean man is in critical condition after being struck by a train early today while walking near the railway overpass on Green-bank Road, just north of Sii Robert Borden High School.

Michael Ventura of 27 Headingly Cres. underwent surgery in Ottawa Civic Hospital.

Nepean police said the man was hit by a 95-car express train about 12:13 a.m. Police said the rail overpass is often used as a shortcut by pedestrians.

31/05/1976 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Cowcatcher saves youth's life

Police say a cowcatcher on a train saved the life of 18-year-old Michael Ventura who was involved in one of two area train mishaps Saturday night. The Ottawa youth is in critical condition in Ottawa Civic Hospital after being struck on the CN overpass on Greenbank Road. Police say the cowcatcher, carried the youth down the tracks, stopping him from being run over.

04/02/1977 Ottawa Journal Beachburg Bells Corners

Box cars flip at Bells Corners

Six cars from a CN train left the track between Baseline Road and Northside Road in Bells Corners at 4 a.m. today. Nepean police said It would take most of the day to clear the wreckage from the track. Investigators are at the scene in an attempt to discover the cause of the derailment. No one was injured.

04/02/1977 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

A Canadian National Railways worker (centre) is dwarfed amid a jumble of freight cars that were derailed at 4 a.m. today between Richmond and Cedarview Roads in Nepean Township. There were no injuries in the derailment which piled up 15 cars and mangled more than 100 feet of track. It was not immediately known what caused the derailment but CN and Canadian Transport Commission officials are investigating. A CN spokesman said the 91-car train from North Bay to Ottawa was carrying a mixed load but nothing volatile. Damage to the freight and cars was not extensive, the spokesman said. The track was expected to be repaired by 8 a.m. Saturday. The Supercontinental from Vancouver, which was to arrive at 7:15 a.m., was the only passenger train affected by the accident and was rerouted.

25/08/1977 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Car crushed by train

The squashed remnant of a late-model automobile is hauled away by a tow-truck after it collided with a CNR dayliner on the fifth line of Huntley Township, about 20 miles west of Ottawa today. A 38-year-old Kinburn man was instantly killed in the mishap, which occurred about 6.30 a.m. The man's identity is being withheld pending notification of his family

25/08/1977 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

One dead in crash

One person is believed dead following an early morning car-train collision today at an unprotected crossing on Huntley Township's Fifth Line. Ontario Provincial Police in Bells Corners declined to release the identity of the victim, saying next of kin have not been notified. The crash occurred at 7:05 a.m. about 11 miles from the Ottawa train station. The Canadian Transport Commission and CN are conducting an investigation.

26/08/1977 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Car,train crash kills Kinburn man

Ontario Provincial Police identified Wayne Frank Roger, 38, of Kinburn, as the man killed Thursday at a level crossing near his home.

Police said Mr. Roger was alone in his car and struck a CNR dayliner on the Fifth Line of Huntley Township, about 20 miles west of Ottawa, at 6.30 a.m.

Coroner Dr. J. A. Thompson will decide if an inquest is to be held.

10/06/1978 Ottawa Journal Beachburg

Bristol Mines trio win 'great train race'

BRISTOL MINES (Staff) It was a bit like one of those harrowing climaxes to silent movie melodramas, but Leonard Lloyd figures he was lucky to emerge from a chilling close encounter with a freight train.

The Bristol Mines man and two neighbor boys Mark Duplessis, 15, and his brother, Luc, 11 were returning from an evening's fishing on the Ottawa River near Bristol Mines about 10 p. m. Friday, when Lloyd's car became stuck on a crossing on Knox Landing Road.

As he tried backing the car out, its front end became lodged even tighter on the rails, and the trio began to panic, knowing a CN freight train would be rolling along the track within about 15 minutes, said Lloyd.

While Mark raced two miles through the bush back to Bristol Mines to ask his father to warn CN by phone, Lloyd and Luc lit a bonfire on the tracks and waved torches made of flaming newspapers to alert the train crew.

Mark reached home just in time for his father to call the railway. As the train rounded a bend, its crew spotted the car and flames and it screeched to a halt only a 1,000 yards from the crossing.

11/09/1978 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

Railway suicide try fails

Canadian National and Canadian Pacific police patrolled a stretch of CN track near Bronson Avenue and Heron Road Saturday morning with an eye out for a man who had earlier tried to throw himself in front of a train.

Police said the driver of the 8:30 a.m. passenger train to Montreal spied, the man standing on the tracks, and was able to bring the single-car to a stop before he disappeared into surrounding bush.

The driver reported the incident to CP police who notified CN police who have responsibility for the Beachburg South track where it occurred and Ottawa Police.

Two train police officers were sent to the scene where they patrolled until the 9:30 a.m. Via Rail train to Toronto had passed to ensure the man did not try again.

28/02/1979 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Fitzroy Harbor

Box car jumps rail

FITZROY (Staff) Canadian National Rail crews worked for four hours Tuesday night to clear the main western line to Ottawa after a box car jumped its rails at 9 p.m.

No one was injured and damage was minimal as a result of the derailment, which occurred about one kilometre south of here, said a West Carleton Provincial Police officer.

03/07/1979 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Greenbank Road

Two Ottawa residents escaped serious injury Saturday morning when their car smashed into a passing CN passenger train on Greenbank Road.

Nepean police said James Mellane, 25, of 2695 Hickson Cres., hit the battery box of the sleeping compartment and this stopped the car from going under the train.

"Hitting where he did probably saved his life," said a Nepean police officer, who refused to release the name of the 18-year-old female passenger with Mellane. Mellane was treated and released in hospital.

CN track service restored

Normal service was restored today on the Canadian National track between Riverside Drive and McCarthy Road following the derailment of an engine of a 49-car freight train.

The train was only travelling at 16 kmh, and damage was restricted to the engine. A 30-metre stretch of track dislodged in the accident was put back into place by a CNR crew within a few hours.

The engine, one of two pulling the freight train, was to be taken to CN's Walkley yard later today to determine the cause of the derailment.

Passenger service wasn't disrupted, and freight service was only affected for a few hours on a spur line leading to the Walkley yard.

With photo showing CN 9446

CN locomotive off the track

A diesel CN freight train broke an axle crossing Riverside Drive late last night chewing up the track and halting traffic. The diesel jumped off the rail but remained upright. There were no injuries. The 49-car train, out of Winnipeg, carried lumber and automobiles and an assortment of other cargo. It was heading to CN's Walkley yard.

Woman dies in train trestle tragedy

An Canadian Forces woman based in Ottawa, killed Tuesday when she was hit by a train as she crossed a trestle over the Petawawa River in Algonquin Park, had no reason to be on the Canadian National crossing.

Cpl. Edith Aileen Knechtel, 29, was part of a 10-member canoeing expedition, all based in Ottawa with Unit 764 Communication's Squadron, that was using the trestle to portage a section of the river near Traverse Lake.

Knechtel, formerly of Vancouver, was killed instantly and thrown into the river rapids when struck by the westbound CN freight train about 8:50 a.m. She had been carrying camping supplies.

Jim Griffin, operations manager at the provincial park, said today the group had no need to use the trestle as a portage.

He said there is a 1,300-metre portage around a bad stretch of rapids near the trestle.

"The portage itself doesn't use the trestle . . . They didn't need to use it."

He said the portage had been moved across the river last year because park officials had been concerned about a stretch that had crossed the tracks near the trestle.

Two other members of the expedition, attempting to rescue Knechtel, were injured in a fall down a steep embankment after they jumped to avoid the train.

Lt. Mike Maxwell, 24, formerly of Regina, and Master Cpl. Robert McClennan, 39, of Peterborough, are in satisfactory condition at the National Defence

Medical Centre in Ottawa. McClennan suffered a broken ankle in the fall and Maxwell received bruises and scrapes.

They were treated at the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa hospital before being transferred to the medical centre.

The train trestle on CN's main line is located 2.8 kilometres west of Lake Traverse, a small resort village about 96 kilometres northwest of Pembroke.

There are no warning signs on the 100-metre-long trestle because it is not located near any roads and isn't intended for pedestrians, a CN spokesman said today.

There are no railings on the which runs about 10 metres over the fast-flowing river.

Fatal trip was not military

A Canadian Forces woman, Cpl. Edith Aileen Knechtel, was killed Tuesday when she was hit by a train while crossing a Canadian National railway trestle over the Petawawa River.

She was part of a 10-member canoeing expedition using the trestle to portage a section of the river near Traverse Lake.

A spokesman for Unit 764 Communications Squadron of which Knechtel was a member said the trip was a privately-organized expedition by members of the squadron and not part of any military exercise. The group members, eight men and two women, were on leave.

The group left Ottawa Saturday for a seven-day canoeing expedition into Algonquin Park. They were following a popular Canoe trail mapped out by the provincial natural resources ministry.

He said Knechtel was trailing behind the group when they heard the train approaching.

"The exact details to indicate why she moved so slowly are not clear," said the spokesman.

He said the group had crossed the trestle once before in search of a trail.

By Doug Gloin JOURNAL REPORTER

A wilderness canoe trip to Algonquin Park ended in tragedy yesterday for 10 Ottawa armed forces members when one of the party was killed after being trapped on a narrow railway trestle by an oncoming train.

Two of the victim's companions were critically injured when they fell from the trestle into a rock-strewn river 50 feet below in a vain attempt to rescue the 24-year-old female armed forces member.

On social trip

Department of National Defence spokesman Capt. Dick Adams said the three victims were part of a group of 10 armed forces personnel on a week-long social canoe trip through the park. They were due to return from the trip this Saturday.

"It's certainly a real tragedy for them," Adams said yesterday.

Pembroke OPP said the victim was carrying camping equipment across the narrow trestle spanning the Petawawa River near Traverse Lake just before 9 a.m. when she was trapped by an westbound freight train travelling through the park.

Police said the woman had travelled too far onto the trestle before seeing the oncoming train and was unable to reach safety in time.

The train struck the woman, throwing her from the bridge into the water below, killing her instantly.

Forced to jump

Two male companions were unsuccessful in trying to reach their trapped companion, and were forced to jump into the rapids below, narrowly avoiding being hit by the train as well.

Two other canoeists in the group made their way to a road and managed to flag down a passing truck and summon help for the injured victims.

Pembroke OPP, military police and rescue crews used old logging roads to reach the two men lying on the rocks below the bridge within two hours of the mishap.

"That bridge is used by canoe trippers all the time to portage the river in spite of signs warning them of the danger," a police spokesman said. "It's more convenient and faster for them, I guess."

The trestle short-cut cuts about a half-kilometre from the distance required to portage the swift-flowing section of the river, which winds through the seldom-travelled northwest corner of the park.

The freight train had left the park's Traverse Lake railway station about three kilometres east of the bridge just minutes before the tragedy occurred.

The names of the victims were withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Back in Ottawa

Police said the remaining seven uninjured but shaken members of the group returned to Ottawa yesterday afternoon.

The two injured males were rushed to hospital at CFB Petawawa, about 160 kilometres from the tragedy, before they were transferred to the Department of National Defence Medical Centre in Ottawa last night.

DND officials said the two victims are listed in critical condition with internal injuries and lacerations suffered in the fall.

19/08/1980 *Ottawa Journal**Beachburg*

Three men injured in scaffold collapse

PEMBROKE (Staff) Three men were taken to the Pembroke General Hospital today when the scaffold they were working on broke, and they plunged about 80 feet into the Muskrat River.

The accident occurred about 1:30 p.m. when a work crew from the Quebec area employed by Canadian National Railways cross-braces on the was replacing railway trestle near the Industrial Road.

They were taken by ambulance to the hospital and it is believed they have multiple injuries to their backs and ribs.

Pembroke OPP have not yet released the workers' names.

03/03/1981 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Riverside Drive*

Train underpass ready by '82

Commuters using Riverside Drive can look forward to a clear drive downtown - free of train crossing interruptions.

Regional council recently agreed to pay one-third of the cost to build a \$5-million underpass for cars at the Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Railway tracks on Riverside Drive near Walkley Road.

Construction began last fall and the project is expected to be completed in the summer of 1982.

A regional transportation spokesman, Bill Beveridge, said the underpass is being built to improve safety conditions on the road. It will also speed up service to the downtown core.

About 300,000 cars a day travel across the railway crossing section of the road, which is blocked off to traffic at least 20 times a day because of train crossings.

While construction crews are building the new underpass, the CN-CP line has been diverted south of the Riverside Drive crossing. New tracks for the detour were laid last year.

Riverside Drive is also the main downtown route for residents in Windsor Park, Hunt Club Chase and other Western Community neighborhoods.

Hospital escaper hit by train

Another hundred metres and Arthur Brannen would have been home to his parents.

Early Saturday morning, the 20-year-old fled from the Royal Ottawa Hospital and was only a stone's-throw from his Colman Street home when a southbound train hit him from behind as he crossed the tressel [sic] over Walkley Road near Riverside Drive.

Brannen survived being hurled into the steel wall along the sides of the rail overpass and is in satisfactory condition today with severe head and chest injuries.

But the incident has heightened fears among area parents who say dozens of children use the dangerous tressel as a shortcut to neighborhood schools.

A wire fence which separates the tressel and tracks from the playground of Fielding Drive Public School and pupils as young as eight years old has a two-metre gap in it and a well-beaten path leads directly on to the overpass.

Via Rail officials said up to a dozen freight trains and six passenger trains, including the one bound for Toronto which hit Brannen, go over the tressel each day. Although there is room at the edge of the tressel for someone to leap to safety, the overpass lies between two sharp curves which obscure oncoming trains.

Charlie Byrne, whose Hartman Crescent home overlooks the tressel, said it was inevitable someone would get hit on it.

"That hole in the fence along the park has been there a long time. You're not going to stop everyone from going on the tracks, but at least a fence helps keep the little kids out," he said.

Byrne said the only time the trains sound their whistles coming through the neighborhood is when someone is walking across the 100-metre-long tressel.

He was at the breakfast table about 9:30 Saturday when he heard the familiar whistle.

Seconds later, Brannen was struck.

CN official John Pasteris said the railway has repaired the fence along the tracks "many times," but vandals simply keep ripping it open again.

"We've had CN police go to the schools and talk to the kids about the dangers of the overpass, and we've gone to parents' meetings with the same message," Pasteris said.

He said CN police "frequently" patrol the area and if a child is caught on the tracks, "we go to talk to the parents."

"I don't know what else we can do. It boils down to parents taking some responsibility and keeping their kids off the tracks."

Fielding Drive school principal Murray Sands said the tressel "has always been a concern" and that students have been repeatedly warned to stay off the tracks.

CN police approached him six months ago complaining that students were throwing rocks at passing trains, he said.

The part of the fence which forms the right outfield for a baseball diamond in Arnott Park, adjacent to the Fielding school, has been repaired a number of times by CN, he added.

Sands said pupils from the Rideauview Gardens development use the hazardous tressel as a shortcut to the public school, the only English-language elementary school in the area.

"But there are also a lot going to Brookfield and Holy Cross who go along the overpass," he said.

"It's a real danger to everyone."

Riverside Ward Alderman Jim Durrell said he is "almost certain" the city will approve stoplights at a cross-walk several hundred metres west of the tressel.

"Whether that will encourage kids not to use the rail overpass, I just don't, know."

In addition to the crosswalk to the west of the overpass, there is also a pedestrian tunnel under Walkley about 300 metres to the east of the tressel.

The overpass, just east of Riverside Drive, was built in the early 1970s after several collisions between trains and cars at the former level crossing.

09/01/1982 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Bristol*

Cause of derailment investigated

Canadian National officials are still trying to determine the cause of a nine-car freight-train derailment in West Quebec, 60 kilometres west of Ottawa, Thursday.

The freight cars, on the front part of an 83-car train heading for Montreal, jumped off the track at the Pontiac Station in Bristol, Que, at 4:30 p.m.

Carrying general merchandise containers, the freight train derailed over a 200-metre stretch along the line which runs from Ottawa to Brent, Que.

Louise Filion, a CN spokesman, said the Montreal CN emergency crew had swiftly cleaned up the cargo Friday and the track was again open for use.

Train cuts car in half, but driver lives

A West Carleton man miraculously escaped serious injury Thursday when his car was sliced in two by a freight train at a level crossing in the township.

Shortly after 5 p.m. Thursday, Gregory Zarzycki's 1974 Dodge Dart Was severed at the dashboard when the 23-year-old failed to brake in time to avoid the 91 - car, westbound freight at Vance's Side Road.

Zarzycki, who lives near the crossing and uses it at least twice a day, was thrown into a water-filled ditch. .

"I just remember looking and seeing the train about 15 feet in front of me," a groggy and sore Zarzycki said this morning from his Queensway-Carleton Hospital bed.

"The last thing I remember is slamming on the brakes. Then I woke up here. I don't even remember going through the windshield, but I must have because they put 30 stitches in my head and picked out a lot of glass."

Zarzycki is in satisfactory condition with a broken collarbone and severe bruises to his face.

He was on his way to help a friend set up a new restaurant when the accident happened.

"Right now it's too painful to say I'm grateful to be alive. I used to see that train track and wonder how anyone could get hit by a train. I guess I did it this time so it must be possible.

"I think I'll be more surprised when I see the car."

His father, George, spotted the torn car as he was returning from work.

"I said to myself, 'My son's dead.' I still don't believe how he survived."

Zarzycki apparently managed to unlatch his seatbelt as the car was being hit, allowing himself to be thrown clear.

"He's lucky to be breathing," said neighbor Brian MacLaren, who found Zarzycki in the ditch.

Police say there was enough water in the ditch to drown the dazed man.

Nearby residents say visibility is poor near the crossing.

Dense bush about 75 metres south from the crossing makes it impossible to see westbound trains, said Brian MacLaren, who found Zarzycki after the accident.

There are no railway signals at the crossing.

Vance's Side Road runs off old Hwy. 17, and is about 25 km northwest of Ottawa.

West Carleton Mayor Frank Marchington, who also lives in the area, said the trains' whistles aren't always sounded until the final approach.

"I've nearly been hit myself," he said.

Said George Zarzycki: "Today every train is whistling like mad. Before they never used to whistle."

But the mayor said municipal engineers have studied which level crossings in West Carleton require signals. Because Vance's Side Road isn't heavily travelled, they concluded it wasn't worth applying to the Canadian Transport Commission to have signals installed.

But the accident victim's father and MacLaren say the municipality should at least get Canadian National to clear some of the dense bush.

Police suspect Zarzycki was travelling at a high speed when caught sight of the westbound train. Zarzycki tried to brake in time, but "he was already at the point of no return," said OPP Const. David Delmer.

Seeing Zarzycki's car, the train engineer applied his brakes, but the freight, travelling at about 80 kilometres an hour, didn't stop until it was already about a half-kilometre from the point of the collision.

The northbound car was cut at the dashboard and debris was thrown for metres.

Police, who have never seen a motorist survive a similar train-car crash, say the last accident at the crossing was on Dec. 24, 1980. A transport truck was sheared in half in that accident, but no one was injured.

Riverside train underpass to be open in September

Construction of a train underpass on Riverside Drive near Uplands Drive is nearing completion and should be open to traffic in about three weeks.

A spokesman for the region said although the \$6-million project will be officially opened sometime after Oct. 15, the four-lane divided roadway under the tracks should be open a month before that date.

Tender Call. CN Rail has called for tenders for the construction of an embankment to replace the bridge over the former CP mainline at Bells Corners (Mile 12.44 of CN's Beachburg Subdivision). Work consists of supplying, placing and compacting approximately 20,000 cubic meters of fill material. Tender close was October 16.

Police urge greater caution after crash at train crossing

Police are urging motorists to be more careful at railroad crossings in the wake of an accident in which a 77-year-old Ottawa woman was critically injured.

It was the 14th train-crossing accident in Eastern Ontario in the past year. Seven people have been killed in that period.

Ivy Maguire, of Alta Vista Drive, was driving home Saturday after visiting her sick husband in Riverside Hospital when her car was struck by a VIA train a few blocks from the hospital.

She is unconscious, but in stable condition at Ottawa General Hospital following the 11:15 a.m. accident at the signal-equipped crossing on Billings Avenue, near Billings Bridge.

The woman was travelling south on Billings Avenue when her 1981 Malibu was struck on the passenger side by a Toronto to Ottawa VIA train.

Ottawa police believe Maguire failed to see the warning lights at the crossing, which also is equipped with warning bells.

Freight train derails in bush

ALGONQUIN PARK - An eastbound Canadian National freight train went off the tracks in the dense bush of this wilderness park Monday, but no one was injured and no hazardous chemicals were spilled.

Eleven of the train's 85 cars left the tracks about two kilometres west of Achray Station, near the east end of the park, just before 8 p.m.

The cause of the derailment hasn't been established. A team of CN officials on the scene Tuesday were expected to conclude their investigation Tuesday.

CN spokesman Louise Filion said the train was not carrying any chemicals and none of the four crew members was injured.

The 20th to 30th cars from the caboose went off the tracks and over the sidings, landing on both sides of the track.

Filion was unable to estimate the damage.

The line is expected to be closed until about 6 p.m. today while a mobile crane and cleanup crew replace the cars on the line.

Filion didn't know exactly what the 11 derailed cars contained but company notes indicate they were carrying "general goods" that presented no environmental or health hazards.

The eastbound freight was travelling from Edmonton to Montreal at about 50 km an hour at the time.

25/06/1987 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

Sixteen freight train cars derail in Algonquin bush

PEMBROKE - Sixteen cars from a CN freight train derailed in the dense bush of Algonquin Park Wednesday but no one was injured and there were no spills of hazardous products.

Canadian National Railway spokesman Jean Guy Brodur said the Ottawa-to-Winnipeg train went off the track on the Beach-burg subdivision, about 50 kilometres west of Pembroke.

The derailment occurred at 2:45 p.m. between the whistle stops of Cathmore and Dahlia, about 16 km north west of the hamlet of Round Lake Centre.

The cause has yet to be determined although investigators from the Canadian Transportation Commission were on the scene.

The train left the tracks at the 13th car behind one of two locomotives, dumping a car loaded with automobiles, an empty gondola and 14 empty tank cars, Brodur said.

The empty tankers, previously loaded with sulphuric acid, did not leak, Brodur said.

A small bush fire possibly ignited by sparks from friction was extinguished soon after the crash.

Crane and wreck crews from Capreol and Montreal were en route to the scene late afternoon Wednesday, Brodur said.

There was no immediate estimate of damage. The tracks were expected to be repaired by Friday.

Until then, trains scheduled for Winnipeg will be re-routed through Toronto.

12/08/1987 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Pembroke

Steam Train Excursion to Pembroke, Oct. 4. Bvtown Railway Society, P.O. Box 141, Stn. A, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 8V1 for tickets.

05/10/1987 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Pembroke

Train to Pembroke pulls in with a lush plume of steam

Steam train leaves 'em beaming

PEMBROKE Engineer Mark Merriman knew he was driving more than a train when he arrived here Sunday afternoon. He was bringing a piece of history back to life.

Merriman was the engineer of the 1201, the only operating mainline steam locomotive in Ontario.

The train was put back into service for a 294-kilometre afternoon trip from the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Hundreds of Pembroke-area residents were at the station to get a glimpse of the white steam and to hear the whistle blow once more. '

"Whenever this train runs, an awful lot of people turn out," Merriman said.

Sitting behind him in eight coaches were nearly 600 people hoping to relive a bit of the past.

Bruce Wilmote, 40, travelled from Michigan to take the Ottawa Valley train trip, his 97th excursion on a steam train.

"You just can't get it out of your blood once you've felt the pounding of the steam. It brings back many different feelings of far-away places."

For seven-year-old Ryan Kenny, the trip was a new adventure. He rode Sunday with his mother, father and little sister on his first train trip and his father is sure that the whistle and the steam are something Ryan will remember for many years to come. .

"This was a big opportunity for us," said Francis Kenny. "It's really a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Members of the Bytown Railway Society, which organized the trip, say they want to prove those words wrong.

Philip Jago, one of the main organizers of the trip to Pembroke, said he is very encouraged by the number of people who took part in the event.

The 1201 was the engine used for passenger trips between Ottawa and Wakefield from 1973 to 1985. Those trips were cancelled when the line was abandoned, but steam enthusiasts are still hoping to bring them back to life.

Dennis Peters, research and policy officer for the Outaouais and Gatineau Valley Railway Committee, says trips to Wakefield could begin again as early as next summer.

Peters says the new owners of the railway track, the municipalities of Hull, West Hull and La Peche, are expected to put out tenders this fall to find an operator for the passenger excursions.

29/04/1988 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Greenbank Road

Train hits teen on overpass

A 17-year-old boy was rushed to hospital Thursday after being hit by a train on a railway overpass at Greenbank Road.

Nepean police said the youth was walking across the overpass, just north of the community of Craig Henry, at about 11 a.m. when he was struck by a westbound CN train.

Police would not identify the youth, who is listed in critical condition at the Queensway-Carleton Hospital.

Police have warned students to stay off the trestle. Teenagers apparently use the trestle as a short cut to Sir Robert Borden High -School.

29/11/1988 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Billings Bridge

Ottawa police investigating after youth, 17, hit by train

Ottawa police are investigating a Friday incident in which an Ottawa teenager was hit by a VIA Rail passenger train.

Seventeen-year-old Michael Walsh received a broken leg when he was hit by the east-bound train

VIA Rail spokesman Daniel Rosseel said Walsh was seen stepping on and off the train tracks behind the Billings Bridge bus station seconds before being hit.

"We couldn't stop the train in time," Rosseel said.

He said the area is private property and Walsh should not have been walking there.

A spokesman for Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario said Walsh's parents have refused to permit the teenager's condition to be discussed with the press.

15/07/1989 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

Train trips a blast (of steam) from the past

See Alexandria sub. same date

15/08/1989 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg

VIA AND TRANSPORT 2000 DERIDE PLAN TO ABANDON LINE:

A total of \$68 million has been approved to construct a 1.6-kilometre section of Ottawa's bus transitway between Riverside Hospital and Billings Bridge. Of that amount, some \$20 million will be required to relocate a portion of CN's Beachburg Subdivision, which hosts 10 VIA trains a day (four Toronto trains and the 'Canadian' each way).

The Citizens for Ottawa Planning, a group of Alta Vista residents, has advocated that the costs can be trimmed by \$18 million if the line were abandoned and the trains routed through Walkley Yard and through the east-end industrial area to enter Ottawa Station from the east end, thus rendering Ottawa Station stub-ended. A VIA Rail spokesman said the group's proposal would undermine VIA's schedules. "Our right-of-way now provides the best possible route between Ottawa and Toronto, and it's the best possible option for any future Ottawa-Toronto service."

A Transport 2000 spokesman indicated that if the plan was ever seriously considered, it would end up costing taxpayers a lot more than \$18 million.

Train fan takes last journey on No. 1201

PERTH - For all his life, Waldo Arbuthnot admired the steam locomotive known as No. 1201.

On Sunday the retired science teacher died of a heart attack during a long-awaited trip on an excursion train pulled by the locomotive.

Arbuthnot, 80, died after the vintage train arrived at the Canadian National station in Pembroke from Ottawa.

His daughter, Fran Alexander of Perth, said her father loved the 1201 and often recalled the old steam engine puffing its way past the family dairy farm near Perth where he farmed from 1946 until 1955, when he took up teaching.

His love of trains continued after he retired in 1973, and eventually became a hobby. He did not own model trains but read extensively about steam engines and locomotives.

But his favorite was the 1201, the train he never forgot even after it was taken off the rails and displayed at the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa.

Arbuthnot, known as "Arby" to his friends, sometimes went to see the train at the museum, but always hoped to ride it again. He was thrilled when his daughter Norma Sager of North Vancouver came for a visit and rode with him to see the autumn leaves last Sunday.

And he was overjoyed when the train stopped at Norway Bay, allowing him to revisit the area where he courted his wife Vera Rivington before their marriage in 1932.

A funeral service is scheduled for today at the chapel of Blair and Son Funeral Home, Perth, followed by a private burial at Bearbrook Cemetery.

28/01/1991 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Dunrobin*

CN tracks cleared at Dunrobin

A 24-car train derailment in Dunrobin was cleared Sunday ! a CN spokesman says.

The railway sent cranes and bulldozers from Montreal to help clear the tracks after the 89-car train derailed Friday night. Rene Chappaz said the cars were carrying wheat

Chappaz said it was the 67th car that derailed first and at least 250 metres of damage to the track. Fifteen of 24 cars that came off the track piled up on top of each other, he said.

No immediate damage estimates were available, but CN is investigating the cause. Regular traffic resumed around 9 p.m. Sunday.

No one was hurt in the accident.

02/05/1991 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Train sparks cause fires

A freight train sparked several grass fires in a three-kilometre area in Nepean Wednesday, slowing traffic and worrying residents.

About 14 firefighters fought two large fires and several smaller ones along the CN Rail tracks west of Merivale industrial park. The largest fire raged in a field between Woodroffe Avenue and Merivale Road. A second burned in a clearing west of Merivale.

The fires were probably set separately by sparks spit from the wheels of one of the train cars, fire officials said.

Flames spread quickly through the dry grass and brush north of the tracks and were fanned by southerly winds gusting to 50 kilometres an hour. A Nepean Hydro pole was burned slightly but there were no blackouts.

Fires are common in the spring when uncut, dead and dry grass is easily ignited, said John Bush, a district chief with the Nepean Fire Department.

Firefighters used shovels, hoses and swatters to battle the fires for about two hours. There were no injuries or damage to property.

Motorists along Merivale near Colonnade Road hit a 100-metre curtain of white smoke spilling from a nearby field between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

"You should have heard the squeals and skids on Merivale Road," said Fred Purkis as he watched the flames from his backyard. "I was just waiting for the sound of a big crash."

Purkis and several other Crestview-area residents closed windows and armed themselves with garden hoses. Flames reached within 50 metres of their homes. Purkis, a former volunteer firefighter, watered down his roof and back lawn, just in case. He said the field ignites almost annually, but Wednesday's fires were unmatched.

Fire officials said the homes were never in any danger because there was at least 15 metres of green grass protecting them.

24/06/1991 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Pleasant park*

Crossing victim called cautious driver

A 72-year-old Ottawa woman who was killed by a train Saturday when her car failed to stop at a railway crossing was a careful driver, says her husband.

Kathleen McCorkell, of Weston Drive, was eastbound on Pleasant Park Road in Ottawa about 5 p.m. when a four-car VIA Rail passenger train hit her Chevrolet Cavalier at a level crossing.

McCorkell had no problems with her sight or hearing, says her husband, Franklin McCorkell. "I can't see her driving in front of a train."

Coroner James Dickson has not decided if he will call an inquest, but suggested a gate might be advisable.

Transportation Safety Board investigator Alex Kocsis said it's not unusual for a crossing to have only lights and bells. Still, he said, he might recommend a gate at the crossing once the investigation is completed.

Kocsis estimated the train was travelling at the speed limit, about 65 kilometres per hour, at the time of the crash.

McCorkell, a mother of six, will be buried in her hometown of Dauphin, Man.

02/12/1992 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Driver hurt when van collides with train

A Nepean man was seriously injured Tuesday when the van he was driving was struck by a freight train on Fourth Line Road in rural Kanata.

The northbound van driven by George Kindack, 67, collided with a 17-car CN Rail train at about 2 p.m. Kindack was in serious condition late Tuesday at the Queensway-Carleton Hospital.

Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Dan Bowers said there are no flashing lights or an automatic barrier at the railway crossing.

06/08/1994 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Man killed in collision between train, mini-van

A Gloucester man in his mid-20s died after his van collided with a freight train at a quiet rural crossing in Kanata Friday afternoon.

Dead is 24-year-old Robert Richardson.

It's the second time in less than two years a car has collided with a train at that crossing.

Richardson's blue mini-van was heading south on Fourth Line Road at 2:36 p.m. when the collision occurred.

The van was dragged 34 metres by the 17-car CN freight train, which needed more than 650 metres to stop.

No one was injured on the train, which was westbound to Pembroke.

The front driver's side of the van was a mangled heap of steel and wires. Richardson was taken to the Ottawa Civic Hospital, but shortly after arrival was pronounced dead.

The crossing is located on a quiet back road in Kanata just south of the Connaught Gun Range.

A sign reading "be prepared to stop" stands near the tracks. But there is no bell or barrier at the crossing.

OPP Const. John Dyer refused to comment on the possible cause of the crash.

One person was killed in the 1992 collision.

Coroner urges barrier at Kanata rail crossing

The coroner in the case of a man killed in a collision Friday between a minivan and a train says he'll recommend putting a barrier at the crossing where the accident occurred. Dr. James Dickson says signs warning drivers to be careful at the level crossing in Kanata aren't enough, because too many drivers ignore that kind of warning. Robert Richardson, 24, of Gloucester, was killed when his van collided with a freight train Friday afternoon. It was the second fatality at the crossing on Fourth Line Rd., just south of the Connaught rifle range.

12/10/1994 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Pedestrian killed by freight train

A young man, believed to be in his 20s, was killed late Tuesday when he was hit by a freight train while walking on the tracks at Woodroffe Avenue, south of Meadowlands Drive. Early this morning, Nepean police could release few details about the 11 p.m. accident, but confirmed the man had been hit while on the bridge which crosses the street.

Ottawa Citizen 13 October 1994

Nepean police identify youth killed by train

Nepean police have identified a 17 year-old killed by an eastbound freight train near the Woodroffe rail overpass just north of Knoxdale Road late Tuesday. Police said foul play was not involved. His name is not being released at the request of his family.

07/07/1995 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

COMMUTER RAIL PROPOSAL Tabled FOR OTTAWA: Canadian National has suggested that it could establish a commuter rail service linking the west end of Ottawa with the downtown core. The plan proposes a rush-hour service along the Smiths Falls and Beachburg Subdivisions which would take riders to Ottawa Station where they could then transfer directly to the municipal transit service. Local politicians have a mixed reaction to the proposal, citing worries that it would siphon traffic off the already struggling bus service and that the line is poorly situated in terms of getting passengers to their places of work in a timely fashion. Previously CP Rail System proposed an inter-provincial commuter rail operation for the Ottawa/Hull region. The idea was opposed by Quebec politicians. (Branchline)

31/10/1995 *Financial Post**Beachburg*

TRAINS TO VACATE ALGONQUIN PARK: New labour pacts will allow CN to start re-routing transcontinental freight trains (mainly intermodal trains) out of the Ottawa Valley as early as the third week of November. These freights will now travel between Montreal and the west via Toronto. About 69 jobs will be cut. CN is closing the Ottawa Valley route because it needs to cut excess rail capacity in Eastern Canada. After the re-routings, about 200 kilometres of track between Pembroke and Nipissing (near North Bay), may be abandoned because no traffic originates or terminates on the line. The track runs through the northern half of Algonquin Provincial Park. Existing weekday local service between Ottawa and Pembroke be maintained. (Branchline)

26/06/1996 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Brent*

End of the Line

Recluse dies in remote shack he called home

Adam Pitz, a craggy-faced recluse who stubbornly resisted every modern convention, be it plumbing, electricity or refrigeration, finally submitted to an ancient one Tuesday when a funeral was held for him in Deep River.

Pitz was found Saturday in the sagging shack he called home on the shores of Cedar

Lake in the northern Algonquin Park outpost of Brent. He was 82.

Pitz was born in Roumania, lived in the tiny seasonal community, an outfitter's launch point and former railway junction, for about 65 years. All winter, he was the only resident which led to him being dubbed "the mayor of Brent."

A Citizen reporter and photographer visited Pitz, a life-long bachelor, in the spring of 1994 and were stunned to discover the squalor of his home and the odd circumstances of his life.

The interior of the house was blackened by fire and grime and had several of its windows boarded up. There was a strong scent of oil in the air and his clothes and hands were badly soiled by an oily substance. He had no running water or telephone and, in his later years, his hearing was failing.

The toothless, quiet man saw nothing special about his life and had difficulty understanding why a newspaper would want to write about him.

His disconnection from the outside world led to some fascinating adaptations. Though a pauper in appearance, Pitz, upon being admitted to hospital for treatment of a leg injury, was found to carry a large wad of cash in his pocket. A local man also reported seeing Pitz make trips to a stash of money in an outdoor woodpile. Strangely, he was afraid of lightning, which led to the illogical boarding of the windows.

Pitz said his father arrived in Brent in the early 1930s with the railway. At the time, Brent was a busy train junction and also had a bustling sawmill.

His father is said to have died in Brent in 1967, found frozen to death.

When asked what would happen if he were to have a heart attack in the winter; with help at least 40 kilometres away, Pitz replied: "If I have a heart attack, I'll just be dead. That's all."

Nephew Fred Pitz said Tuesday his uncle, whom he had not seen for about 20 years, died of unspecified natural causes and was discovered by an employee of the neighbouring outfitter's store.

"He just loved that part of the country," said Pitz, a Nepean resident.

"He tried living in Toronto a couple of times, but hated the hum-drum of the city."

He said his uncle occupied himself by feeding his cats and birds, listening to the radio and stockpiling preserves he made himself.

Fred said Adam indeed had kept money stashed at home but, some time ago, relatives managed to convince him to put it in the bank.

Adam's brother died about four years ago. He is survived by two nephews and two nieces.

Pitz said his uncle was to be cremated after Tuesday's service. The ashes are likely to be spread near his home in the provincial park.

How fitting.

After 65 years in Brent, the last 30 in solitude, perhaps he isn't leaving, after all.

Romancing the Trains

Ottawa Central Railway's love affair with locomotives is all business - almost

Jeff Pappone reports

In the romantic tradition of trains, two area railworkers never fail to perform their most important duty of the day waving to every child they see.

Engineer Claude Talbot and conductor Roch Martin concern themselves with hundreds of details as they pilot their freight train from Ottawa to Pembroke and back.

But they're always on the lookout for youngsters usually with huge grins and flailing arms who greet the Ottawa Central Railway crew along the 150-kilometre route. After more than eight months on the run, they know all the spots where the members of their "fan club" gather.

"It's our most important job," Mr. Martin explains. "Sometimes a wave from us is the best part of these kids' days. When you go to engineer's school, one of the things they tell you is: It's part of your job to wave to kids."

The pair travels to Pembroke five times per week with several stops along the way hauling raw materials north and returning to Ottawa with product destined for cities all over North America. One of five short-line ventures owned by Chemin de Fer de Quebec, Ottawa Central began operating in December, taking over area short-line routes abandoned by Canadian National.

"We had a known customer base," says OCR general manager James Allen. "CN looked for its operations to be more competitive against giants in the U.S. and decided it couldn't service smaller customers. But rail service is back in Ottawa, and we want people to know who we are."

OCR will officially introduce itself to the community during an open house in September or October, he adds.

Until then, the public will have to be satisfied by occasionally seeing a jet-black OCR locomotive travelling on one of three regular routes: the weekday Ottawa-Pembroke, the Thursday-only Ottawa-Arnprior run, and the Sunday-to-Friday Ottawa-Coteau (Coteau is 20 kilometres west of Valleyfield, Que.) run.

For now, OCR picks up and delivers freight between area companies and CN's main line at Coteau. But the future could see it establishing a closed freight loop among area businesses, Mr. Allen predicts. A closed-loop service would require a substantial investment, including buying a fleet of cars to haul freight. All the cars pulled by OCR are leased from CN or Canadian Pacific by the customers.

But, even without that service, the benefits of a short-line outfit are beginning to show, he says. For example, OCR has some customers who need one car per month and CN couldn't accommodate them. Smaller operations can afford to do things that weren't cost effective for CN, Mr. Allen says, so, the 22-employee operation acts as an expanded fill-in, building on the old CN customer base. So far, 11,000 cars have been handled.

Seven 1,800-horsepower locomotives dating back to 1957 are the only rolling stock OCR owns. They were bought from CN, overhauled and updated with electronic systems before they began operating out of the Walkley Yard at the north end of Albion Road. The tracks outside the railyard are owned by CN, but all inspections and repairs are done by OCR. Regular maintenance on locomotives is performed in a small on-site workshop. Major repair work on the engines is done elsewhere.

The cars moved by the locomotives are left by CN at a railyard near its mainline at Coteau, about 110 kilometres east of Ottawa, to be retrieved at midnight by the local service. OCR uses the VIA passenger line to Montreal for most of the trip to Coteau. At the beginning, the short-line company attempted to run the train to Coteau during daylight hours, but switched to a night schedule after it discovered that yielding to passenger trains added several hours to the trip.

The 110 kilometres-an-hour top speed of their 1950s locomotives means they can't keep up with their passenger cousins and consequently, the engineers spent long periods stopped on sidetracks waiting for the faster VIA Rail trains to whiz past.

Once the train returns to Ottawa, the cars are separated into blocks destined for local delivery to either Pembroke or Arnprior. The trains then travel north up the Ottawa Valley, drop off the Coteau haul, and return with a fresh load of freight. The process ends where it began, with an OCR train leaving Ottawa at about 9 p.m. and following VIA tracks toward Montreal back to the CN mainline.

Not only are the engines old CN stock; most OCR employees are too, including Mr. Martin and Mr. Talbot, who began working together on the Pembroke train when OCR took over the route. Both agree working for a short-line outfit suits them better than the giant CN, especially the attitude of the operation.

"The smaller company encourages us to talk to the customers," says Mr. Martin who worked the same route for CN before moving to OCR. "When I was with CN, there was little one-on-one contact with customers."

The guys on the rails know what the customer's needs are and how to meet them, so it's not uncommon for the engineers and conductors to go to the bosses and tell them what to do, he explains. And, because the crews know as much about the customers as they do about the kids waving by the sides of the tracks, the bosses listen, Mr. Allen says. "If they want to talk about something, all they have to do is come into my office and sit down."

The customers appear to like the new attitude, too.

Ed Gutoskie takes care of shipping and warehousing for one of OCR bigger customers, Smurfit-Stone Container Canada Inc. of Port du Fort.

"The takeover by OCR has been a definite advantage from a service point of view."

Smurfit-Stone ships roughly 80 per cent of its product along OCR's lines, including pulp to companies such as Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, New York.

While truck rates are "competitive" with OCR and CN, most of his customers prefer to receive shipment by rail and that dictates his choice, he explains.

Part of the improvement for Smurfit-Stone is elimination of the CN bureaucracy that made simple communication difficult, he adds. The sheer size of CN meant there were multiple levels of approval for the smallest of change in service. With OCR he simply picks up the phone, calls Mr. Allen, and solves the problem in minutes. "Anyone who steered away from rail because of the service in the past should take another look."

Chunk falls from rail bridge, damages car.

Riverside Drive overpass checked two weeks ago by CN rail crew.

A Riverside Drive railway overpass — a piece of which shattered the windshield of an Ottawa motorist yesterday morning — was inspected two weeks ago, a Canadian National Railway official says.

Rush hour traffic near the train station ground to a halt when a chunk of concrete the size of a loaf of bread fell and damaged the Nissan Pathfinder of Glenn Brimacombe, chief executive officer of the Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations, who was stopped below the structure. He was not hurt. But while CN said it has been inspecting and maintaining the overpass for an undisclosed number of years, it would not confirm it owns the bridge. Yesterday morning, the compa-

ny said the National Capital Commission owned the bridge, but by last night it had retracted that statement.

"We're reviewing the legal documents surrounding the ownership," said spokesman Mark Hallman.

Mr. Hallman said that the bridge underwent a visual inspection two weeks ago and it was deemed structurally sound for rail traffic.

Yesterday, another inspection also deemed it safe after the company chipped away pieces of loose concrete from the section that fell.

"We're continuing to assess the situation at the moment, but the bridge does not present a safety hazard," said Mr. Hallman, who added that the overpass is used solely by VIA passenger trains and not by trains carrying freight.

Police closed parts of Riverside Drive, near Tremblay Road, for more than five hours following the incident that occurred just before 9 a.m. Shortly thereafter, officials with VIA said they inspected the tracks

and did not believe it would affect their service. By 2:45 p.m., all lanes of Riverside Drive were reopened.

The NCC owned the bridge in 1966, the same year Ottawa's train station was moved from downtown to the lot off Tremblay Road.

"Our records show that the land in this area was conveyed to the (former regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton) in 1972, subject to an easement in perpetuity in favour of the railway," said Lucie Caron, a spokeswoman with the NCC.

Ms. Caron said CN is responsible for the tracks and installations on the land, such as the overpass.

In Ontario, bridges and over-

passes must be inspected at least once every two years, according to the 1990 Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act.

In Ottawa, for example, more than 700 city-owned bridges undergo visual inspections and/or structural condition surveys by the Department of Public Works.

In October, just days after a Montreal-area overpass collapsed killing five people, the department at Ottawa City Hall reported to council that it was "confident that our structural assets are being maintained to adequate levels.

20/02/2008 *CNW**Beachburg*

OVER \$1.5 MILLION TO OTTAWA CENTRAL: The Governments of Canada and Quebec will invest over \$1.5 million of a \$2.4-million project that will help the Ottawa Central Railway upgrade to North American standards. Under the restoration program, the Government of Canada will invest \$948,000, the Government of Quebec over \$632,000, and the Ottawa Central Railway (owned by the Quebec Railway Corporation) more than \$789,000 over a period of five years to upgrade the carrying capacity of 36 kilometres of the railway's tracks in Quebec. (Branchline)

04/06/2008 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg*

Rural mayors go it alone to plan commuter rail line

A recommendation made last June by Mayor Larry O'Brien's task force on transportation continues to gather steam even though council has shifted its focus from regional transit to transit within the city.

The task force's final report recommended region-wide rail service, mostly on existing tracks, that would include service to the city's surrounding regions, covering more distance with each of three separate service expansions in 2010, 2017 and 2037.

On June 13, Mr. O'Brien is to meet with regional mayors for a followup to last year's transportation summit. Yesterday, the mayor's office would not disclose what the city hopes to achieve at that meeting.

At last year's meeting, regional mayors were taken with the idea of extended rail service, said Arnprior Mayor Terry Gibeau.

"It seemed to make a hell of a lot of sense. Everybody signed on and away we went."

Now that the City of Ottawa has shifted its focus, Mr. Gibeau and mayors from eight other municipalities in Ontario and Quebec are in the preliminary stages of planning a commuter rail line on their own.

"It's a bunch of people who happen to be small-town politicians saying, 'Maybe we can do something from this end,'" Mr. Gibeau said.

He and a group that includes Mayor Scott Wilson of Bristol, Que., aim to determine whether running commuter trains along the Ottawa Central Railway's line from Pembroke to Ottawa, criss-crossing the Ottawa River, is a viable option.

"It's a loser's argument to say we should discourage people from coming into the city," said Mr. Gibeau, "because they're going to keep coming. They're going to keep driving cars and they're going to keep polluting."

A trial run of the train tentatively scheduled for September will run from Portage du Fort, Que., to Ottawa, near the Walk-ley rail yard, said Mr. Wilson.

"It's going to be nothing extravagant. We're not going to have bleachers or raised platforms or anything like that set up."

The trial run is intended to expose the riders to the route and the duration of the trip.

"There's a whole lot of homework to be done yet," said Mr. Gibeau, including determining whether the region has the ridership to support a commuter rail line.

Although the group is working independently of the city to examine commuting options,

the western mayors have approached West Carleton-March Councillor Eli El-Chantry, whose ward the existing line crosses, about joining them for future discussions.

"Any effort from our neighbouring municipalities to reduce cars on our roads is a good sign," Mr. El-Chantry said. "Having said that, it's always the devil in the details. Who's going to pay for what?"

To the city's southwest, a rail line runs through Smiths Falls, then on to Brockville. It has been identified as a possible solution for moving commuters, said Smiths Falls Mayor Dennis Staples.

"We have a number of citizens in my area who commute into Ottawa on a daily basis, clogging up roads," he said. "We're looking at ways that we can work with the city to come up with a better approach to getting people in and out of Ottawa for work."

Mr. Staples said he and other regional mayors expect to find out more about the city's transit plans at the June 13 meeting.

Municipal leaders to chime in on regional rail system plans

Municipal leaders from around Eastern Ontario are scheduled to gather at Ottawa City Hall on Friday to pursue plans for a regional rail system, Mayor Larry O'Brien announced yesterday morning.

The morning session is a followup to last year's summit, at which mayors and reeves began discussing a proposal from Mr. O'Brien's task force on transportation: to run trains from as far away as Arnprior, Smiths Falls and Alexandria into downtown Ottawa to ease the pressure commuters put on highways 416 and 417. The panel, led by former federal transportation minister David Collenette, suggested relying heavily on existing rail lines, and potentially even serving communities in the Outaouais.

Ottawa City Council has spent the past several months examining plans for an urban mass-transit system within the city, but other Eastern Ontario towns were so taken with the idea that several have been pursuing elements of the plan independently. - As the Citizen reported last week, mayors of communities in the Ottawa Valley are planning a test-run of a train along the Ottawa Central Railway line, which extends to Pembroke.;

Mr. O'Brien has argued that solving! the city's internal transportation is- • sues is just part of the solution for Ottawa, since so many commuters from outside the municipal boundary add to congestion in the city.

Federal Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon is to take part in the summit, as will Ontario Municipal Affairs Minister Jim Watson and National Capital Commission chief executive officer Marie Lemay.

A passenger train running along the Ottawa River between Pembroke and Ottawa would breathe new life into the region, an economic development group says. The group, in Quebec's Pontiac region, wants the train to travel on existing track west of the national capital, passing through Renfrew, Ont., crossing into Quebec, and dipping through Portage-du-Fort and Shawville before crossing back into Ontario at Fitzroy Harbour, toward Kanata and Ottawa.

The group's chair, Heather Alberti-Dickson, said Wednesday that such a train would "just change the face of Pontiac," a region that once relied on forestry, but has been struggling economically since the downturn in the industry.

Alberti-Dickson said she has discussed the idea with most of the communities along the A passenger train running along the Ottawa River between Pembroke and Ottawa would breathe new life into the region, an economic development group says.

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Alberti-Dickson said she has discussed the idea with most of the communities along the route, which are all trying to attract homeowners, tourists and businesses to the region.

"They're just so on board with this idea, because they can all see how it's going to benefit their communities," she said.

The Ottawa Central Railway owns the track, which is used daily to haul freight.

James Allen, the railway's general manager, said he supports the new plan and doesn't think it would be difficult to make room for a passenger train.

"Where these projects become difficult is where you have to lay down track. But where we are now the infrastructure is in place, so it's just a matter of using it."

The next step, Allen and Alberti-Dickson said, is to put together a business plan that includes information about the estimated cost of the service and the demand for it.

Once that is in place, the communities hope to approach the provincial and federal governments for money to support the project.

Commuter rail trial run set for Oct. 5

The commuter rail line discussed by mayors of communities in eastern Ontario and West Quebec has set a date for its trial run.

On Oct. 5, the mayors of Bristol, Que., Arnprior and Renfrew will join other area politicians and Ottawa Central Railway staff on a test run of Jthe train from the Walkley railyard to Pembroke along existing OCR tracks. The run is intended to expose riders to the route and duration of the trip.

The idea of a regional rail line for commuters was first raised last June by Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien's task force on transportation. Since then, the regional mayors have been looking into the viability of a commuter rail line on their own.

Pembroke kicks in cash for commuter train

City to pay share of trial run for Valley-to-Ottawa route

PEMBROKE - The City of Pembroke is willing to pay up to \$1,500 to take part in the trial run of a commuter train between the Upper Ottawa Valley and Ottawa.

The Oct. 5 trial, will see a group of community leaders from Renfrew and Pontiac Counties take a train ride between Ottawa and Beachburg and back, to test the viability of a regular commuter route.

The \$10,000 cost of the trip is being split between the Pontiac and Renfrew County, which will each kick in \$5,000. Each county in turn will be asking participating municipalities to help out. "There is no budget for this," Pembroke Deputy Mayor Les Scott said. "Our cost could be anywhere from \$700 to \$800 all the way up to \$1,200, depending on who else joins in."

Although the trial run does not run as far as Pembroke, Scott said this is only designed to see how practical the idea of a regular commuter run would be. If successful, the route could be expanded to include Pembroke -- which would also open up the Petawawa region.

"This will indicate if it is worth doing at all, and if it will provide good service to the people of this area," he said.

Coun. Cheryl Lowe said a train route would be beneficial, as it is no longer convenient to get to Ottawa by bus.

"A lot of seniors are unable to drive to Ottawa," she said, so this is a worthwhile idea to investigate.

A regional commuter train was first proposed by Ottawa mayor Larry O'Brien, and since then has grabbed the imaginations of councils and economic development groups on both the Ontario and Quebec sides of the Ottawa River.

The Pontiac Community Futures Development Corporation based out of Shawville is a strong backer of regional rail.

The group has been behind a proposal to have the commuter train weave between the provinces to cover sections of both the Pontiac and Renfrew County.

In Renfrew County, Whitewater Region has been strongly supportive of the concept, with councillors seeing great opportunity and potential benefits for the municipality. Joining in to explore the idea is Renfrew, Arnprior, Pembroke and communities within the Pontiac including Bristol.

The train leaves Ottawa at 10 a. m. Oct. 5, heads to Beachburg and returns to Ottawa by 4 p. m.

TRIAL RUN FOR COMMUTER TRAIN: After a trial run called Rail Day, municipal leaders from Renfrew and Pontiac Counties issued a joint communique declaring they support in principle the development of a commuter rail service for the region. Riding a passenger train from Ottawa to Beachburg, area politicians got their first glance at what such a service would look like. The trial run was arranged in co-operation with Ottawa Central Railway to show federal, provincial and municipal leaders the route and the benefits a commuter rail service would offer. Renfrew County Warden Janice Visneskie said that years ago it was economical to ride the train from Ottawa to the rural communities, and perhaps it is viable now. "With today's soaring transportation costs and the desire for residents to live a more environmentally-sensitive lifestyle, it is timely to investigate the feasibility of a commuter rail service between Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley," said Warden Visneskie. First proposed by Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien, the initiative has grabbed the imaginations of councils and economic development groups on both sides of the Ottawa River. "The development of a transportation program linking our communities is important to our collective economic growth and development and complements the need for improved highway infrastructure," said Whitewater Region Deputy Mayor Lowe. He explained that by using the existing Ottawa Central Railway corridor, it is not unrealistic to expect a transportation service could be established without undue hardship to link valley communities with urban employment hubs. While the declaration launches the project in the direction of devising a plan, it also urges the federal and provincial governments to assist in obtaining regulatory approvals and assistance in accessing any funding that might be available for such a concept. The next step will be to conduct marketing and feasibility studies to determine ridership and other factors. A task force has also been formed which, at this point, includes representation of Whitewater Region, the Town of Renfrew and the Town of Arnprior. Although there was no discussion of funding, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MP Cheryl Gallant acknowledged the commuter train is a vision that can be made a reality. She noted its potential to attract tourist dollars to the region. MPP John Yakabuski said rail companies may have been too hasty in ripping up the tracks. He added a commuter train presents several opportunities that all levels of government should explore. Assessing the value of such a service, Pembroke Mayor Ed Jacyno said there are many details that will have to be hammered out. He said the rail beds would have to be upgraded and the train would have to run at a much faster speed to accommodate work schedules. While he sees great potential in the project, Mayor Jacyno warned that expansion of Highway 17 to four lanes must still be a priority. "The two of them in unison could work together". (TheDailyObserver.ca, Oct. 6)

03/11/2008 *Ottawa Business Journal* **Beachburg**

CN buys Ottawa rail line

The Ottawa Central Railway is among four properties that Montreal-based railway giant CN is buying from the Quebec Railway Corp. (QRC) for \$49.8 million. CN said today it has acquired three principal railway subsidiaries of the QRC, along with a rail-freight ferry operation, giving CN back the 540 track miles of rail line it formerly owned in eastern Ontario, eastern Quebec and northern New Brunswick, as well as a ferry service on the St. Lawrence River in eastern Quebec.

CN had sold the rail lines to QRC in the late 1990s and has held a minority equity interest in the ferry operation since its startup in 1975, the company said. The OCR runs between Coteau, Que., where it interchanges with CN, and Pembroke Ont., as well as serving Hawkesbury. Between Coteau and Ottawa, the OCR operates over VIA Rail trackage.

The other properties CN is buying are the Chemin de fer de la Matapedia et du Golfe, which has 221 miles of track from Quebec to New Brunswick, the 196-mile-long New Brunswick East Coast Railway, and the Compagnie de gestion de Matane Inc., which provides shuttle boat-rail freight service on the St. Lawrence River between Matane and Baie-Comeau, Que.

CN said it will be investing in the properties over the next three years to upgrade their rail lines and replace their existing locomotive fleet with "more modern motive power."

04/11/2008 *Ottawa Citizen* **Beachburg**

CN Rail reacquires lines, Quebec ferry

TORONTO - Canadian National Railway Co. said yesterday it had reacquired three former subsidiaries and a rail-freight ferry operation from close partner Quebec Railway Corp. for \$49.8 million.

CN agreed to purchase the CFMG line, a primary artery for Quebec shippers of aluminum, paper and forestry products, as well as the New Brunswick East Coast Railway and Ottawa Central lines.

The railway also acquired QRC's Compagnie de gestion de Matane Inc. rail-ferry services that runs along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.

"QRC has done a great job with these rail properties, and we believe we can improve on that in (the) future," said Hunter Harrison, CN's chief executive, in a statement.

Mr. Harrison added that the company has a three-year investment strategy for the assets to upgrade each line and replace the locomotive fleets.

The three lines rejoin CN after the railway sold them to QRC in the late 1990s. None of the 214 jobs across the four assets are to be cut, CN said.

"Post-transaction, it will be 'business as usual' under CN ownership, with no immediate changes in freight, VIA Rail passenger rail service or employment levels," the company said.

CN has weathered economic headwinds well through the last quarter, through increased operating efficiencies, according to analysts. The company reported a 14-per-cent rise in profit in the third quarter on Oct. 23, beating expectations.

20/02/2009 *Pembroke Observer* **Beachburg**

AREA RAIL SERVICE STILL POSSIBLE: The latest revision to CN's three-year rail network plan has placed the rail line (Beachburg Subdivision) that would be used for a proposed interprovincial commuter rail service in the Ottawa Valley on the list of lines to be discontinued. While this might seem like a big problem, the members of the committee looking to establish the commuter service said hope is certainly not lost. In fact, committee member Izett McBride, chairman of the growth and development committee for Whitewater region, said in some respects, the threat of the line being discontinued could speed things up. The idea of the commuter service is being headed by SADC Pontiac Community Futures in Quebec and has gained favour with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation as well as local politicians. McBride described the current situation as a bit of a "cat and mouse game" but for the moment, the committee looking at establishing the service is continuing to move the project forward. It will worry about the fate of the rail line if and when it needs to. It is McBride's understanding that the line is slated to be abandoned in about 18 months. John Brayley, manager of network strategies for CN, said the company is required to put its intention to discontinue the line on its public plan before it can move on to the next step in abandoning the line. The intention to discontinue the line remains on the public plan for 12 months before CN is entitled to begin the process to actually abandon it. During this time, there would be an opportunity for another company, organization or railway to purchase the line. McBride believes the fate of the rail line has three possible outcomes. First, there is the possibility that the line will once again get busy and CN will change its mind. Second, another group, municipality, or railway could offer to purchase the line. The third outcome would see nothing change and CN decide to abandon the line and put it up for sale.

Those pursuing the idea of commuter rail down the valley to Ottawa are currently preparing a survey to see if residents of eastern Ontario and western Quebec are interested in the service and if numbers are sufficient to support it. Brittany Morin, economic development officer for SADC Pontiac Community Futures Development Corporation, said the survey is nearly finished and should be released to the public in about a week. Morin added that she hopes to have the results by early spring. (Branchline).

Ottawa Valley communities to study viability of commuter rail line

The idea of a regional rail line from Ottawa to communities in the Ottawa Valley and Pontiac is moving ahead to a study phase. The Community Futures Development Corporations of Renfrew and Pontiac counties have partnered to explore the viability of a rural commuter rail line and are conducting a public survey to gauge community interest. The survey is available online at www.rccfdc.org and www.commercepontiac.ca. Results will be made public in April. Last fall, the commuter rail line had a trial run as the mayors of Bristol, Que., Arnprior and Renfrew joined other area politicians and Ottawa Central Railway staff on a test run of the train from the Walkley railyard in Ottawa to Pembroke along existing OCR tracks. The idea of a regional rail line for commuters was first raised in June 2007 by Mayor Larry O'Brien's task force on transportation. Since then, the regional mayors have been looking into the viability of a commuter rail line on their own.

Via Rail apologizes for impending racket near Billings Bridge, Mooney's Bay

Via Rail is planning eleven nights of noisy work on its tracks in the southern part of downtown Ottawa, and warns that people living near by could be disturbed by it for up to three nights each.

The work is to upgrade about 10 kilometres of track, Via said in a news release. "In order not to interfere with daytime passenger train movements, the work must be performed overnight between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.," the rail company said.

The plan is for the workers to move along the track as the improvements are completed, so the machinery and crews should only be audible in any given location for about three nights, the company says.

For more information, nearby residents can call 1-888-VIA-RAIL.

Ottawa Valley towns banding together to keep trains on track

PEMBROKE —Municipal councils and interested people on both sides of the Ottawa River agree they don't want the railway tracks running through the Ottawa Valley scrapped.

Representatives of both Renfrew County and MRC Pontiac councils, the City of Pembroke, along with staff, VIPs, economic development people and other interested parties gathered Tuesday morning to meet with members of the joint rail transport committee, which has been working to get a commuter train in the region.

While acknowledging there remains a lot of work and millions of dollars in investment to make it happen, the committee's top priority now is to convince the Canadian National Railway not to tear up the 130-km stretch of track linking the region to Ottawa.

This section, known as the Beachburg subdivision, has been placed on the list of lines the railway wants to abandon.

Louise Donaldson, executive director of SADC Pontiac Community Futures, who, with its counterpart the Community Futures Development Corporation of Renfrew County, are spearheading the effort, said the news CN was looking to abandon the line within six months caught the group off guard, forcing it to scramble in order to head off the attempt.

In order to do that, she said, the committee needed to show interest it wants to purchase the rails and to get that kind of clout, has applied to Industry Canada to form the Transport Pontiac-Renfrew corporation.

"It is the threat to economic development for our regions and the commuter train which is the prime motivation for this meeting," Ms. Donaldson said, stressing it is important to preserve the tracks and not just for the potential future of a commuter train.

"It is very difficult if not impossible to sell an area to industry without rail," she said.

Ted Barron, the chairman of Renfrew County's Community Futures and the head of the rail committee, said no one wants the line to become abandoned, as once it is gone, it will never come back.

"It took a hundred years to get the rails laid down and I hope we don't lose them now," he said. "That's our life and breath."

The joint rail committee pushed ahead with this because of the tight 90-day time-line to respond to the abandonment announcement. It was hoping for both county councils to officially endorse the efforts to enter talks with CN by passing a resolution before the end of Tuesday's information meeting.

However, neither county was comfortable with this, feeling they needed to bring the matter before their full councils for endorsement.

MRC Pontiac Warden Mike McCrank said he knows this is an urgent matter, but said they need to take this back to their respective councils before they approve it.

"Here, we're a group of concerned citizens" attending an information session, he said, with no authority to make such a decision.

Warden McCrank said MRC Pontiac council is meeting Thursday to discuss other matters, so he can present this motion then.

Admaston/Bromley Township Mayor Raye-Anne Briscoe said there is no way she can support this before bringing it before Renfrew County council, agreeing with deputy clerk Jim Kutschke they didn't have the mandate to do so.

"We only have three out of 17 county council representatives here now," she said. Mayor Briscoe said she is concerned if the majority of council decides to reject this endorsement, the county would be forced to withdraw, perhaps damaging the effort beyond repair.

"I don't want to bring grief to the project," she said. "I'm just asking for the time to do this right."

The next scheduled meeting for county council is the end of August, before which the matter has to go through the development and property committee.

Warden McCrank said he feels that isn't a problem, as he expects MRC Pontiac to back the resolution this week. Renfrew County can join in later.

The idea of a commuter rail service has been gaining steam since last fall following a successful pilot run between Beachburg and Ottawa on Oct. 5, 2008, which led to local municipal leaders on both sides of the Ottawa River signing a joint statement with Ottawa city council.

This began the planning process for the project, as well as urging the federal and provincial governments to help by smoothing out regulatory approvals and seeking funding which might be available.

An online survey was also launched to gauge interest in a regular commuter service.

Harry Gow, the founder of Transport 2000 in Canada and a technical advisor for the project, told those gathered at Tuesday's meeting the interest is definitely there. Out of an estimated 6,000 who commute regularly to Ottawa, more than 600 took the time to answer the survey, with the majority of them in favour of a regular train service.

He said if done in conjunction with a nightly freight service, this can be made viable, with ticket prices kept to levels comparable to a regular bus route, with single one-way tickets ranging from \$10 to \$15 depending on where the rider boards the train.

To get it going won't be cheap. Based on the initial pilot project study, it is estimated start up costs will be \$6.8 million in the first year, including operational expenses and upgrading infrastructure and the rail stations. In the second year the cost could be \$3.3 million and in the third year \$3.5 million to finish things up.

James Allen, president and CEO of JDA Consulting, who is another member of the rail development team, said this investment is considerable, but one has to remember the assets themselves will last 20 to 40 years.

If sufficient freight customers can be secured, these revenues will be of help in keeping the rail service running, he said, and securing government funding will also help make this a reality.

The exact cost it will take to do and what will be required from both counties hasn't been determined.

Mr. Gow said the next step once the body of the new nonprofit corporation is sorted out is to develop a business plan, looking into everything from auditing the tracks, switches, signals and crossings, figuring out how viable it is and marketing the system to determining the best way to attract tourists into riding the train. All of this will have to be co-ordinated to link up to create a train system serving both Eastern Ontario and West Quebec.

"Lots of work has to be done," he said. "There is a place for regional carriers," but they will have to work hard to get and keep the business.

Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MP Cheryl Gallant, invited to attend the meeting, said she feels this is a historic day, when the councils of both Renfrew and the Pontiac sat together to work things out for the betterment of both.

MP Gallant said the Pontiac's federal government representative MP Lawrence Cannon is also a strong supporter of this rail project and together she is sure they can lobby hard on its behalf.

The new Transport Pontiac-Renfrew was to have contacted CN Tuesday afternoon.

Corporation formed to help preserve rail tracks (e)

In an effort to keep the dream of an Ottawa Valley commuter rail line alive, the committee looking into the project has formed a corporation. This according to Whitewater councillor Izett McBride, who delivered an update on the initiative to council during its most recent meeting. The name of the not-for-profit corporation is Transport Pontiac-Renfrew. It was formed in July in an effort to keep CN from ripping up the tracks that run from Ottawa, through the Pontiac and Renfrew counties to Pembroke. McBride said Transport Pontiac-Renfrew is governed by a board of 12 members including two business representatives, two railway freight client representatives, one from Ontario and one from Quebec, members representing Renfrew County and Pontiac community futures, the Renfrew County warden, the warden of the Pontiac, Pembroke Mayor Ed Jacyno and three charter members. CN has listed the 130 km of track known as the Beachburg Subdivision among those lines it wants to abandon. Those seeking to get a local train service going are moving quickly to head that effort off. The work to bring a local commuter/freight train to the valley has been spearheaded by SADC Pontiac Community Futures and its counterpart, the Community Futures Development Corporation of Renfrew County. The two groups are using government funding to pay for the costs of studying the feasibility of this idea. Time is running out, as CN could begin lifting the tracks next spring. McBride said freight users of the rails have become involved as they are worried about losing this crucial link. Some of these freight users include a pellet plant at Bristol, ATC Panels in Pembroke and a pulp mill that is up for sale in Quebec. That mill could lose significant value if it lost its rail link, according to McBride. He said the cost to purchase the rail line is estimated at about \$6 million.

A proposed community rail service between Ottawa Valley/the Pontiac and the City of Ottawa/Gatineau is a project on the right track, according to Arnprior's mayor. "Rail is an idea whose time has come again," Terry Gibeau told the EMC, as he explained how the Community Futures Development Corporation of Renfrew and Pontiac Counties have partnered to promote the rail service. Partial funding through the Eastern Ontario Development Program has allowed the partnership to have a feasibility study to be commissioned with RailFuture Group. As well, a survey to assess needs and support for a commuter rail system was done on-line and Gibeau noted the results are favorable. "People are saying it has to be convenient and it has to be cost effective," he said. While Gibeau has been involved in talks about using the former CN line for community service for some time, the Town of Arnprior's involvement was solidified back in Dec. 2008 when the town passed a resolution supporting "the continued efforts of the Renfrew County Community Futures and the SADC Pontiac Community Futures to develop and evaluate the potential of a pilot commuter train project." And during the Aug. 26 Renfrew County council meeting, councillors passed a resolution supporting the efforts of what is known as the Pontiac-Renfrew Transport Group to establish a railway line that would service both Renfrew and Pontiac counties. The resolution, which also called for the county to lobby the federal and provincial government for funding, was passed following a presentation by Bahadir Eke of RailFuture Group and James Allen, the former railway administration who is now with JDA Consulting. Gibeau sits on the executive of Pontiac-Renfrew Transport Group and he noted the organization is in the process of getting incorporated. Gibeau said although in the planning stages, talks have centered on running freight on the line at night, using it morning and evening for commuters to and from Ottawa and for tourism at other times. While the survey results are in, the transport group still has a lot of work ahead of it. Gibeau said there must be some investigation into what the freight service would be like and "figure out what the tourism component might be." He also noted if CN abandons the line, which it most likely will, the group would like to get it for net salvage value. That value still needs to be established, the mayor noted.

18/12/2009 *Ottawa Citizen* *Beachburg*

The federal government is funding a feasibility study that could ultimately lead to a commuter train service running from the Pontiac and Renfrew to Ottawa. Lawrence Cannon, the MP for the Pontiac and the federal Foreign Affairs minister, said the federal portion of the \$272,000 study will be \$136,000. The rest of the amount will be covered by Transport Pontiac-Renfrew, a non-profit community organization. The study will determine if there is a business case for such a rail project.

19/12/2009 *CBC News* *Beachburg*

OTTAWA VALLEY COMMUTER TRAIN ON TRACK; A commuter train linking Renfrew County, the Pontiac region of west Ouebec and the city of Ottawa took a step closer to becoming a reality. The federal government announced a \$136,000 grant for a feasibility study into improving the existing railway connection between Ottawa and Pembroke. Currently, one freight train a week travels along the CN-owned tracks west of the national capital. Transport Pontiac-Renfrew, the group that's pushing for the railway improvements, would like to see the number of freight trains on the Ottawa-Pembroke line tripled and a five-day-a-week commuter service introduced within two years. Harry Gow, head of Transport Pontiac-Renfrew, said the future of both the Renfrew County and Pontiac region's economies depends on improving the rail line. (CBC, Dec 19)

27/02/2010 *Ottawa Citizen* *Beachburg*

Notice of Discontinuance of Railway Line

In accordance with Section 143 (1) of the Canada Transportation Act notice is hereby given that Canadian National Railway Company (CN) intends to sell its ownership and operating interest in the railway line described below or to discontinue operating the railway line if it is not transferred.

Beachburg subdivision in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec from a point near nepean, Ontario (Mile 14.50) Beachburg Subdivision) to a point near Portage-du-Fort, Quebec (Mile 50.40 Beachburg Subdivision)

-and-
From a point near Portage-du-Fort, Quebec (Mile 50.40 Beachburg Subdivision) to a point near Pembroke, Ontario (Mile 88.70 Beachburg Subdivision)
More

If by May 17, 2010 no party has made its interest known, or if no agreement has been entered into within six (6) months following this date, the railway line will be offered to the federal and provincial governments, to the urban transit authority, and to the municipal or district governments through whose territory the railway line passes. Each will have thirty (30) days to accept the offer. If no agreement is entered into, operation on this railway line will cease.

02/09/2010 *EMC Arnprior* *Beachburg*

- Group negotiating to purchase CN Beachburg line (e)

Things are rolling along for an organization looking to purchase the CN Beachburg line, which runs the Ottawa Valley to the City of Ottawa. Transport Pontiac Renfrew, a community-based non-profit corporation with a board of directors from Pontiac and Renfrew counties as well as city representation, has been working for a couple of years now to take over the line. If the organization succeeds, the long-term plan is to not only operate it as a commuter line, but also use it for freight transportation and tourism. A business plan has been completed and the net salvage value for the line has been determined. Both were key requirements before consideration could be given to offer to purchase the line. "We, Transport Pontiac Renfrew, are deep in negotiations with CN to purchase the railway," Arnprior mayor Terry Gibeau told his council colleagues Aug. 23. "We are at the offer/counter offer stage." Gibeau is a charter member of the corporation and has been a big proponent of developing the line for various community and industrial uses. In a separate interview with the EMC, Gibeau said he could not divulge details of the financial negotiations, however, he did say the deal "is getting really close" to being completed. "CN is being cooperative and very positive. They don't want to see the rail line closed any more than we do," Gibeau explained. He said the Transport Pontiac Renfrew board has expanded its size and membership comes from the Ottawa Valley municipalities as well as Ottawa. Ward 5 West Carleton-March councillor Eli El-Chantiry sits on the board of directors with Gibeau. With the Quebec government in support of the rail initiative, Gibeau said he and El-Chantiry would work hard to ensure that same level of support exists in Ontario.

PEMBROKE - A major obstacle to preserving the CN line running between Pembroke and Ottawa via the Pontiac has been overcome, paving the way for freight and passenger traffic to resume starting next year.

On Tuesday, Transport Pontiac-Renfrew (TPR) announced it has signed an agreement-in-principle with Canadian National Railway for TPR to acquire the lines, known officially as the Beachburg Subdivision.

In a press release, Louise Donaldson, director of Transport Pontiac-Renfrew, said this is a significant development.

"This initial agreement is a big step in the acquisition process," she said. "Some specifics of the deal still need to be worked out, but the parties are eager to complete the transaction."

No one is more pleased by the announcement than Izett McBride, Whitewater Region's new deputy mayor. He was an original member of the group that wanted a commuter rail service established on the line.

"They still need to dot the I's and cross the T's for this," he said. "I think it is terrific they were able to reach an agreement and keep it in public hands."

The fight to save the rail started back in 2008, when private and public groups on both sides of the Ottawa River began exploring the possibility of reintroducing passenger service. A special Sunday "commuter excursion" was held on Oct. 5, 2008, in which a group of mayors, officials, reeves, media and invited guests were taken on a short rail trip to prove the feasibility of the idea.

Days later, the Ottawa Central Railway and its parent Quebec Railway Corporation, which owned the Beachburg subdivision, were sold to CN and within months after that, the line was placed on CN's abandonment list.

Fearing the impact on local industry, the non-profit Transport Pontiac-Renfrew group was formed in an attempt to ensure rail service remains in the Upper Ottawa Valley and Western Quebec.

"Rail is key to revitalizing our communities," said Ms. Donaldson. "It'll serve as a major benefit when courting new industry, plus it will attract future rail-served clients which in turn will create jobs."

Once acquired, the TPR will begin freight operations along the line as soon as possible. If all goes as planned, this is expected to be rolling in the spring of 2011. Passenger/commuter service will be brought in later, with possible tourist excursions added to the mix.

"The freight is the more profitable side of this," McBride said, which will bring in the revenues needed to upgrade the lines so they can bring in a viable passenger service.

The upcoming reopening of Trebio's Smurfit-Stone pulp mill in Portage-du-Fort to manufacture energy wood pellets will be dependent on rail service, along with other industries within Renfrew County.

The tracks have been graded to 40 mph, which is usable for freight, but need to be upgraded to allow trains to run at 60 mph for passengers.

Mr. McBride said TPR expects the rail service to be self-financing, and except for items such as the construction of stations along the way, won't be looking for municipal funds to keep the rail line going.

"They know municipalities are not in the position" to be partners in this, he said.

10/02/2011 *Pembroke Observer**Beachburg*

Laurentian Valley, ON, council is expected to be among the first municipalities to support a non-profit group's attempt to acquire a portion of CN track.

Following a closed meeting between members of Laurentian Valley council, Transport Pontiac-Renfrew board member Terry Gibeau, former Ottawa Central Railway manager James Allen and Pontiac Community Futures economic development officer Brittany Morin recently, the Laurentian

Valley committee recommended the township support Transport Pontiac-Renfrew's move to take over the Beachburg Subdivision railway, which is seen as a vital link to economic growth and commercial viability of both Pontiac and Renfrew Counties. Laurentian Valley Mayor Jack Wilson explained that the decision to pass this resolution has a lot to do with the benefits of rail to industry, including Laurentian Valley's fibreboard plant ATC

Pembroke, which closed its doors in November 2008. Gibeau is happy Laurentian Valley is first off the mark and he hopes the others will follow suit. The TPR road show has already visited two municipalities in the Pontiac and they have indicated they will pass

a similar resolution this week to Laurentian Valley. Gibeau has visits planned to Whitewater Region, Pembroke, Ottawa and a number of Quebec municipalities along the river. The goal is to run a short line. Laurentian Valley council is expected to vote on the resolution at its Feb. 15 meeting. (Branchline)

11/02/2011 *Pembroke Observer**Beachburg*

The vision of commuter rail in Ontario's Ottawa Valley moved closer to being realized Wednesday night as Whitewater council agreed to a plan that will save the CN line. Whitewater Region joins Laurentian Valley, Litchfield and the City of Ottawa in endorsing a proposal by Transport Pontiac-Renfrew to accept ownership of the 70-mile Beachburg subdivision. In exchange for the donation of land and rail assets, CN is seeking a tax receipt from the eight municipalities through which the line runs. CN and the not-for-profit

organization have already signed an agreement in principle. Deputy Mayor Izett McBride, who has represented Whitewater at the organization since its inception three years ago, said they have taken a giant step closer with this vote. CN is required to transfer rail assets to an operating railway. The group has insurance and assures municipalities they will have no liability, responsibility or financial commitment in connection with the service. The concept is to start with freight and then move into commuter rail within three years. Mayor Jim Labow foresees rail possibly reviving two critical industries - fibreboard and pulp and paper.

24/02/2011 *Pembroke Observer**Beachburg*

CITY VOTES TO DONATE RAIL: The town of Pembroke, Ontario, has climbed on board with Transport Pontiac-Renfrew, after council voted unanimously to donate CN land and assets to the not-for-profit company. They join Laurentian Valley Township, Litchfield and

Whitewater Region, in which the municipalities agree to accept the rail lands and transfer them over to the TP-R, in exchange for a tax receipt to CN. In turn, there is no cost incurred by the communities, and they are freed from all liability to whatever happens on those railway lands. The two kilometre stretch of rail running through the city is the municipality's contribution to transfer ownership of the rails to the TP-R, which intends to run a freight service soon along the rails, with a passenger service to Ottawa to follow three years afterwards. (Pembroke Daily Observer' Feb. 24, Mar. 4 Branchline)

04/03/2011 *Pembroke Observer**Beachburg*

The town of Pembroke, ON, has climbed on board with Transport Pontiac-Renfrew, after council voted unanimously to donate CN land and assets to the not-for-profit company. They join Laurentian Valley Township and Whitewater Region, in which the municipalities agree to accept the rail lands and transfer them over to the TP-R, in exchange for a tax receipt to CN. In turn, there is no cost incurred by the communities, and they are freed from all liability to whatever happens on those railway lands. The two kilometres stretch of rail running through the city is the municipality's contribution to transfer ownership of the rails to the TP-R, which intends to run a freight service soon along the rails, with a passenger service to Ottawa to follow three years afterwards. Coun. Les Scott, who introduced the resolution authorizing the land transfer, said this is pending the blessing of the Canada Revenue Agency, but no one is expecting any problems from that end.

OTTAWA VALLEY - Transport Pontiac-Renfrew is one step closer to eventually creating a commuter rail link between Pembroke and the Ottawa VIA Rail station.

On Oct. 26, city council gave its consent for TPR to acquire and operate the 32 kilometres of the rail line known as the Beachburg Subdivision that lay within the city's boundaries. It runs through West Carleton and Kanata and ends in Nepean, but TPR would look at acquiring running rights to use other tracks to get people to the VIA station on Tremblay Road in the city's east end.

It was the final approval out of nine municipalities the group needed to move forward with a plan to buy the line and use it to run more freight routes - and eventually, a commuter rail service.

"It is essential," TPR's Terry Gibeau, former mayor of Amprior, said of the city's approval.

Kanata North Coun. Marianne Wilkinson said a survey taken in the Ottawa Valley indicated a commuter line would attract several hundred riders.

"Kanata people would be able to get on there if they wanted to - it would be in the business park," she said. "I think it could be very useful in Kanata, especially the Kanata Business Park."

Ottawa doesn't want to have any liability for the project, according to the motion passed by city council.

But it's an idea that has some support around the council horseshoe, including from deputy mayor and West Carleton Coun. Eli El-Chantiry.

El-Chantiry, who sits on TPR's board of directors, said the initiative is a "very credible" one.

"Those tracks are very important to us " We don't want to make the same mistakes our predecessors made by pulling them," he said.

More than 10,000 people commute to Ottawa from the Valley, and a TPR study found that 25 per cent of those commuters would use the rail system instead, El-Chantiry said.

Gibeau said CN Rail is set to sell the line to TPR. That could happen as early as January of 2012.

In the short term, that will mean more freight shipping and therefore, more jobs in the Ottawa Valley, Gibeau said.

CN is only running the line one day per week for freight, and TPR would have it run seven days a week, Gibeau said.

A short line owned by a smaller, local group would also provide better service and hopefully attract more companies who would want to use the line to ship their goods, Gibeau added.

"But we haven't lost sight of the fact that we want to get into a commuter service," he said.

Gibeau is setting his sights a year and a half into the future. That's when he says TPR could be ready to run a commuter rail service through the valley, starting in Pembroke and ending in Nepean.

The line runs from Pembroke through Beachburg to Renfrew County before skirting into the Pontiac in Quebec. It crosses back into Ontario at Fitzroy Harbour before heading to Nepean, so there would be a number of commuter stops in Ottawa, Gibeau said.

TPR will also resume talks with OC Transpo about offering bus passes along with the commuter rail fare, so travelers can reach their final destination.

Those talks were going well a couple of years ago, Gibeau said.

"It will probably add to OC Transpo's business," he mused, and it could take pressure off OC's park-and-ride lots.

James Allen, a former rail manager and consultant for TPR, said the commuter line could have a "very dramatic impact" on OC Transpo and how the transit authority distributes its service in areas where TPR and OC Transpo could overlap. The heavy commuter rail line and the proposed path of Ottawa's planned light-rail system don't intersect.

Looking even further into the future, Gibeau said TPR could look at signing agreements with the owners of other rail lines, including ones that run to other commuting origins such as Smiths Falls.

TPR was created in 2009 after CN put the Beachburg Sub on the list for abandonment.

Thomas Geiger

Two men escaped with only minor injuries after a railway maintenance car or hi-rail travelling along the train tracks crashed into their pickup truck on Riddell Drive between Dunrobin and March Valley roads on Tuesday morning, police said.

The call came in at about 8:10 a.m., said fire department spokesman Marc Messier. Both men in the pickup truck managed to get out by themselves after the crash. No specific information on the driver of the hi-rail was available, though their injuries were also reported to be minor.

Messier said the intersection bells and lights were working when the crash occurred, and added that the intersection isn't equipped with gates.

Riddell Drive is closed between March Valley and Dunrobin roads, causing traffic delays in the area. Police said the closure could be in effect for some time while police and other agencies investigate.

The return of freight trains to an unused railway line might be the key to bringing commuter rail to Kanata and other west-end communities.

A non-profit organization called Transport Pontiac-Renfrew (TPR) could finalize a deal to take over an out-of-service Canadian National railway line in the spring, says James Allen, who has advised the group, formed in 2009 by business and political interests in Renfrew County and the Pontiac region.

"I'm optimistic that we're close enough that TPR and CN can complete their deal in the first quarter of 2012 and then roll out a freight operation," says Allen.

Once freight trains start rolling between Ottawa and Pembroke, Ont., via Portage-du-Fort, Que., the revenue generated will help finance a planned commuter service 18 months later. That means a commuter rail service between Pembroke and Ottawa's central railway station could start as soon as 2013, four years before the first phase of the city's LRT project is slated to begin operations.

Officials from both Pontiac and Renfrew have pursued a commuter rail option over the out-of-service CN Beachburg rail subdivision since 2008, when the line was owned by the Ottawa Central Railway. Shortly after a special passenger train completed a test run between Ottawa and Beachburg in 2008, CN purchased the Ottawa Central and quickly abandoned a section of railway line, which passes by or near a number of communities in the city including Bells Corners, north Kanata, Dunrobin and Fitzroy Harbour.

Allen, former chief executive of the Ottawa Central, says the railway line's prospects have improved since 2008, especially after a developer purchased a shuttered Smurfit Stone plant in Portage-du-Fort and redeveloped the property into a rail-friendly industrial park. A wood-pellet plant on the site is expected to be a major customer for a new rail operator.

The return of freight traffic on the line after five years of inactivity will help subsidize a commuter rail service, Allen says, since he expects employees of a future railway would be involved in both freight and passenger services. Allen expects to be involved in the operations of the new railway line.

In addition to freight service, the non-profit group also hopes to operate occasional special passenger services over the line before commuter service is established. This could include tourist trains that would serve whitewater rafting attractions and other tourism operators in the Upper Ottawa Valley.

This fits with the plans of Mobility Ottawa-Outaouais: Systems and Enterprises Inc., a consortium looking to bring partners together to establish a privately run passenger rail network through the capital region on existing rail lines, extending as far as Smiths Falls and La Pêche, Que.

Joseph Potvin, chief executive of the consortium, says his group doesn't want to limit itself to pursuing strictly commuter rail options, since there are other potential markets for rail in the region, such as bringing day-trippers from nearby communities into the city to shop.

23/04/2012 *Press Release**Beachburg*

Ottawa valley railway plans to be operating in the fall
CN wants to donate its railway line
west of Ottawa to a non-profit
community organization.

(Campbell's Bay, QC, April 23, 2012) The not-for-profit Transport Pontiac-Renfrew (TPR) has provided a progress report including information on a new Board structure and final timelines for the pending acquisition of the CN Beachburg Subdivision railway line.

In an April 19th briefing session for elected officials and representatives from the municipalities through which the line runs, existing TPR executives presented a well structured overview of its developing plan.

"The briefing brought our municipal stakeholders up to date," says TPR Director, Louise Donaldson. "TPR is hoping to be operating by November assuming the current timetable remains intact."

The process to acquire the line includes cooperation with the municipalities along the corridor. Following a line evaluation by a professional railway firm, the municipalities agreed to a process to issue applicable tax receipts to TPR. "We are awaiting CRA's stamp of approval for the replacement cost valuation method," says TPR Board member Daniel Amyotte. "The acquisition of the line depends on the final opinion of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and transfer agreements with CN."

Also included in the briefing, information on a new set of By-Laws to ensure TPR, as a not-for-profit entity, is governed by and for the people of these communities. "The bylaws create a new membership which in turn will elect a new Board of Directors," says TPR Board member Lubomyr Chabursky. "The membership is divided into four groups to ensure that each constituency has a strong and balanced voice in the governance of TPR." The groups will include municipalities; community organizations and economic development organizations; industrial users; and interests of passenger users (for future commuter initiatives).

The fledgling railway operation itself will be managed as a for-profit activity reporting directly to TPR. Net profits from the operation will return to TPR for its use within the specific municipalities / communities. The railway operation will be headed by former Ottawa Central Railway general manager, James Allen.

"We have a tight timeline to work right through September," says James Allen. "To begin, we hope that by early May TPR will have finalized the Safety Management System and application for insurance coverage. By the end of May, CN will be in a position to provide its formal go-ahead for the donation transaction to proceed. This is a key milestone on which all further milestones depend."

The plan to acquire the rail line has been developing since 2009 when CN placed the line on its abandonment list. Business and industry in MRC Pontiac and Renfrew County have stated that in today's post-2008 recession economy, rail is needed as a shipping option. Overall, rail access itself presents a key tool to the economic rejuvenation of the region.

The briefing was held at the closed ATC Panels facility in Pembroke. Representing only one example, the plant will be in a better position to reopen, ramp-up and re-hire if rail remains. Rail is both cost-effective and environmentally preferable especially for long-haul shipments.

From west to east, municipalities along the corridor include the City of Pembroke, Laurentian Hills and Whitewater before it crosses into Québec at Portage-du-Fort. Clarendon, Litchfield, Pontiac, and Bristol are affected in Québec ahead of the line's return to Ontario and the City of Ottawa at Fitzroy Harbour. The line continues east to Walkley Yard in Ottawa.

The Last Railway Spike to be Removed
in the Pontiac (Maybe)

Campbell's Bay Quebec - Despite documented proof that substantial business opportunities exist, CN has announced plans to remove one of the last sections of the Beachburg Subdivision from Portage du Fort, Quebec, to a point east of Fitzroy Harbour, Ontario.

According to Harry Gow and Terry Gibeau, Co-chairs of Transport Pontiac-Renfrew (TPR), "The region has worked long and hard for the re-creation of a shortline railway that would convey the products and the commuters of the upper Ottawa Valley to destinations outside the region, but current developments are making this hard to achieve."

The first section of CN line removal was completed this spring as the section from Pembroke to Portage du Fort was lifted cutting off the struggling-to-reopen ATC panel board plant in Pembroke. The ATC facility has rail infrastructure into the plant and shipping literally from the plant's back door would have been cost-effective.

An advisory of CN's latest intentions from Francois Hebert, Vice President Network Strategies, was received by TPR on 22 Jul 2013. The letter states in part, "CN held off removing the remaining 40 miles of rail because there were indications that a new customer would begin transporting aggregate over this portion of the line but we have been advised by the customer that this business opportunity will not materialize."

Gow commented that "while TPR is not a party to the details of these negotiations, the freight rates charged by CN are in our experience are significantly higher than those charged by a shortline railway, such as the former Ottawa Central Railway which operated the line before CN bought it back, and that is what keeps shippers from using this line."

Gibeau added that "CN had ignored pleas to keep the line to Pembroke as ATC Panels will restart production there, and needed the line to move its products to market. TPR then worked on an alternative for ATC, which would have given it an opportunity to use the railway from Portage with a transfer from trucks." The letter contained no reference to ATC's planned ramp-up and new business potential.

Both Gow and Gibeau have asked the three levels of government to intervene. Of these, only the municipal level has so far acted with the municipalities in MRC Pontiac zoning the land of the railway as for railway use only.

TPR urges the municipalities to ensure that their zoning is respected by CN. This measure had previously saved the CPR line from Hull to Montreal, when the municipalities of MRC Papineau zoned the line, now operated by the Quebec Gatineau Railway, a regional line.

Gow and Gibeau reiterated that "Concerted action can save the Pontiac's railway, but it will require swift and decisive action by all concerned."

Municipalities in Quebec's Pontiac region have banded together to stop a plan by Canadian National Rail to remove the last train tracks connecting them to Ottawa, but in a situation they describe as "life or death," there's been little support south of the provincial border.

"For us, the rail line is a lifesaver," said Michael McCrank, mayor of Litchfield, Que. and a municipal warden for Quebec's Pontiac region. "You only have to look at any gas station where the price of fuel is going through the roof. Down the road, manufactured goods won't be affordable if there isn't an efficient way to get them to the market.

"It's a life-or-death scenario for us."

In early January, CN Rail received permission to remove the roughly 110-kilometre Beachburg Subdivision that connects Pembroke to Ottawa. CN has already removed the near 50-kilometre stretch of rail between Pembroke and Portage du Fort, Que., but held off from stripping the remaining portion of the track. According to CN spokesman Jim Feeny, there had been discussions for a third party to buy what was left of the rail line, but those talks broke down in the past month.

"We worked with a local interest trying to attract more business or to find persons or agencies that might have wanted to take over the rail line from CN," Feeny said. "A lot of work, a lot of effort, but none of those were successful."

Feeny said CN had targeted the railway for discontinuation because there was insufficient traffic on the line and there was no longer any "economic justification" for operating the line. He said the removed tracks would be used elsewhere on the CN network but could not say where.

But there's one small hiccup in CN's plan.

The municipalities in the Pontiac region joined in April to pass a bylaw that designates the land within the railway's vicinity for "rail use only," which effectively prevents CN from removing any tracks in Quebec.

Feeny said he could not comment on the actions taken by the municipalities.

"We are operating under federal regulation and we are abiding by those regulations as we proceed," he said. "If there are other measures or other factors that come into play, we will have to deal with them as they come."

While CN cannot begin track removal in Quebec, there are no bylaws preventing it from stripping rail from the track that runs from Fitzroy Harbour to Ottawa. For those in the Pontiac, it creates a situation where their line is on an island — it's usefulness is dependent upon the ability to transport material into Ottawa and from there, to Montreal and the St. Lawrence River.

But the City of Ottawa hasn't made a move to protect the line.

"Ottawa is a big bureaucracy," said McCrank. "We've had active discussions with the previous mayor and with the present mayor, but there are a lot of people around the table, and not everybody loves rail. Some people can't understand the concept."

According to West Carleton-March Coun. Eli El-Chantiry, through whose ward the railway runs, the fate of the rail line depends on a different government institution in Ottawa.

El-Chantiry has worked with lobby groups in the Ottawa Valley and the Pontiac since 2006 to help to preserve the line. He's skeptical the bylaw in Quebec will protect the railway as CN could appeal to the Quebec government to have it overturned. And he said the price CN was asking for when the line was put up for sale, \$21 million, was simply too steep for the city's coffers. (While CN wouldn't comment on the price tag for the remaining rail, an expert familiar with the company and the railway estimated its value at \$5 million to \$10 million.)

El-Chantiry said the only hope the rail line has left is with the federal government.

"There is a viable economic future for the remainder of the line," he said. "Why are they rushing to take it out of the ground?"

He cited the potential for making it a commuter line or for tourism use. And without a railway, he said, there is little hope for any new heavy or light industry to start in the Ottawa Valley or Pontiac.

He said the municipalities need the weight of the federal government to stop CN.

"Our only hope right now is for our members in the federal government, especially Conservative members, to stand up to CN and say, 'Stop what you are doing,'" he said. "Just say that. Give the business people, and those in tourism and all of the local municipalities a chance."

Mathieu Ravnignat, the New Democratic Party MP for the Pontiac region, said he's reached out to CN to ask them not to remove the rails in Quebec but has yet to receive a response.

"I'm hoping for a positive response and will take further steps if not," he said.

Ravnignat said he's willing to reach out to Conservative Party MP Gordon O'Connor, through whose riding the rail runs on the Ontario side, to reach a solution.

"He ultimately has to decide where he stands on the issue," Ravnignat said. "This government, if they believe in the economic development of Canada, then they will ensure that investments are in place for rail." O'Connor was not available for comment

PORTAGE DU FORT, Que. Tensions in Quebec's Pontiac region are rising after mayors from the area gathered to blockade a railway from which they said Canadian National Rail attempted to illegally remove tracks on Tuesday morning.

In early January, CN received federal permission to remove the roughly 110-kilometre Beachburg Subdivision rail line that ran from Pembroke through Quebec's Pontiac region and then to Ottawa. CN removed the nearly 50-kilometre stretch of rail between Pembroke and Portage du Fort, but held off from stripping the remainder of the line as it worked with municipalities to find a new owner for the railway.

In April, fearing that no buyer would materialize, the Quebec municipalities took the initiative and passed a bylaw, approved by the Quebec government, that designated the land within the railway's vicinity for "rail use only," which legally restrains CN from removing tracks in the Pontiac.

But on Tuesday morning, Pontiac officials were alerted that CN crews were in Portage du Fort and about to begin stripping tracks.

Michael McCrank, mayor of Lichfield and a municipal warden for the Pontiac, rounded up other mayors in the area and drafted a cease-and-desist letter immediately.

McCrank said that when they arrived in Portage du Fort and displayed the letter to the CN contractor in charge, the contractor told him he had direct orders from CN headquarters in Montreal to begin removing the railway.

"We were given a stop work notice earlier today by the municipalities," said CN spokesman Jim Feeny. "We have temporarily halted the work while our law department assesses the situation."

Feeny explained that CN had worked with the municipalities to find a buyer to save the line and had acted in accordance with federal guidelines when it came to the lengthy policy process attached to removing a railway.

He said CN had targeted the subdivision for discontinuation because there was "insufficient traffic" on the line and there was no longer any "economic justification" to continue operating it. The rails would be used elsewhere on the CN network.

"CN is ripping the hearts out of rural Canada," said McCrank. "This is just one line out of dozens they've taken out over the years."

McCrank said the future of the Pontiac's economy is dependant on keeping the rail line. Without it, he said, no heavy or light industry would ever return to the region.

After CN crews went home on Tuesday, McCrank, two other mayors from the area and about a dozen other supporters joined to create a barricade on the tracks.

McCrank parked his pickup truck across the rail line and said he wasn't removing it.

While CN workers abided by the cease-and-desist letter, Feeny said, crews have been told to stop working temporarily, not indefinitely.

"I wouldn't go as far to say that we are going to adhere to the bylaw," he said.

Feeny said CN's legal team is reviewing the situation before the railway decides on a course of action.

At this point, McCrank said the future of the line rests with the Quebec government.

"It's time for them to start defending us," he said. "Quebec has endorsed the bylaw, so that means CN is fighting eight million people, not 14,500 people. But we need the government to continue supporting us."

"They need to stand up for us as Quebecers and assert our rights to make sure this thing stays here."

If Quebec doesn't uphold the bylaw, the municipalities in the Pontiac are left with few other options.

Mathieu Ravnat is the New Democratic Party MP for the region. McCrank said he's compassionate but his position as a backbencher on an opposition party comes with little power. McCrank has also written letters asking for help to the federal government and the Conservative party, but has never heard back. And across the provincial border, the City of Ottawa has shown little interest in saving the line.

"It's devastating. We're trying to create something in the Pontiac and this is happening," said William Stuart, the mayor of Campbell's Bay, who was at the barricade. "While this is still going on, there is still hope. But once the tracks are gone, it's gone."

CN would not comment on what the price tag would be to buy the remaining rail. When the entire track was still intact, it was estimated to cost around \$21 million. An expert familiar with the company and CN estimated the value of the remaining line at \$5 million to \$10 million.

McCrank said that price tag is greater than his entire region's yearly budget.

Caption for picture

Surrounded by supporters in Portage du Fort, Lichfield, Que., Mayor Michael McCrank, a municipal warden in Quebec's Pontiac region, uses his truck to block CN Rail crews sent in to begin dismantling the rail line.

OTTAWA - Canadian National Rail executives said Wednesday they will ignore a bylaw preventing them from dismantling a rail line in the area, and resume stripping tracks near Portage du Fort.

The announcement came after a one-and-a-half-hour meeting between the executives and Pontiac's top municipal bureaucrat.

On Tuesday, after being alerted that CN employees were in Portage du Fort with orders to begin removing tracks, multiple mayors from the Pontiac gathered to erect a barricade along the CN-owned railway.

In March, a bylaw was passed by the Pontiac, and approved by the Quebec government, that designated the land within the railway's vicinity for "rail use only," which legally restrains CN from removing tracks in the region.

MRC Pontiac director general Rémi Bertrand met with CN's head of network strategy John Brayley on Wednesday afternoon in Montreal to discuss the situation. According to Emilie Chazelas, an MRC spokeswoman, CN will not accept the bylaw. She said Brayley informed the MRC that work was stopped on Wednesday to "guarantee the safety of the protesters." In the meeting, Brayley also said that according to a legal opinion he obtained from CN, the rail company is within its rights to dismantle the railway.

Chazelas was unsure whether CN would begin work on Thursday, as the MRC is now hiring a lawyer to dispute CN's claims.

"The MRC Pontiac would like to remind CN that a law is in effect since March 2013 and The company must cease all work immediately," Pontiac officials said in a statement early on Wednesday morning.

A pickup truck owned by a Pontiac mayor has been left on the rail tracks in Portage du Fort and Pontiac officials said it will stay there indefinitely.

Pontiac mayors were also reaching out to Quebec Premier Pauline Marois to ask for help in defending the bylaw and the railway.

Chazelas said that even if CN begins ripping up tracks on Thursday, if the bylaw is enforced by the Quebec government it comes with a clause that states any removed tracks would have to be rebuilt.

MRC Pontiac officials call on citizens to block railway removal.

Tensions escalate as local tow-truck drivers refuse CN railway police requests to remove truck barricade

OTTAWA - The battle to protect a railway in Quebec's MRC Pontiac region from being dismantled by Canadian National Rail escalated on Thursday when a resident used his semi-trailer truck to block CN employees from removing train tracks.

On Tuesday a group of Pontiac mayors erected a barricade in Portage du Fort to block CN workers after being informed that CN was set to begin stripping rail, disregarding a bylaw sanctioned by the province that protects the rail line.

CN temporarily halted work, but after consulting with its legal team, CN employees were back in Portage du Fort on Thursday.

"We believe the bylaw that prohibits the removal of the rail is invalid as the MRC has no jurisdiction over CN's federally regulated rail assets," said CN spokesman Jim Feeny. "We informed employees that we would be resuming work."

According to Raymond Durocher, deputy municipal warden for the Pontiac, CN police arrived on Thursday morning and asked for an MRC truck parked across the tracks to be removed so work could resume.

When Pontiac officials refused, CN called a towing company.

But Durocher said the tow truck driver who arrived was also local, and after he assessed the situation, he refused the job.

"CN tried to reach all the other local towing companies and they all said no," Durocher said.

Afterward, Durocher said, CN employees attempted to work around the barricade, but shortly after they began a local truck driver arrived with his semi-trailer truck and used it to further block CN workers.

"There are too many intersections in the Pontiac. We could play cat and mouse all year," Durocher said. "And I don't think the company wants to lose money having their employees standing there watching people block the road."

"I think we can mobilize enough people and enough big rigs to paralyze the tracks right down to Ottawa."

CN workers left the scene shortly after mid-day, and Feeny would not say if they would return on Friday.

"We still maintain that we have the legal right to remove the rail as we have met all of our obligations under federal law," he said.

Michael McCrank, mayor of Lichfield and the Pontiac's warden, was meeting with lawyers on Thursday. He said they planned to file an injunction against CN on Friday.

He also wrote a letter to Quebec Premier Pauline Marois asking for support.

"The MRC is in a particularly difficult economic situation and the presence of this railway is the last hope we have for attracting businesses," he wrote.

As the battle shifts to the courts, McCrank said, the barricade will remain indefinitely.

Pontiac warden asks federal, provincial governments to intervene in CN dispute

PORTAGE DU FORT, Que. - With a legal battle over the fate of a Quebec railway set to begin between the province's poorest regional county municipality and one of North America's largest rail companies, the warden of the MRC Pontiac warned Monday the region will not be bullied.

At a press conference near Portage du Fort Monday, Pontiac warden Michael McCrank not only demanded that CN halt its removal of the region's rail lines, but also that the federal and provincial governments intervene.

"Today we say, 'Enough,'" McCrank said in a speech. "This battle goes far beyond saving a simple rail line. It's a battle for an entire region struggling to survive."

Fearing that Canadian National Rail would remove the only railway in the Pontiac region, officials passed a bylaw in March designating the land for "rail use only," making it illegal for CN to remove any tracks. But CN has contended the railway is under federal jurisdiction and the bylaw does not apply.

McCrank asked that the federal government impose a moratorium on removing the rail lines, which link the Pontiac region to Ottawa, and that it instruct international development agencies to promote the Pontiac. He also asked that the Quebec government create a substantial investment fund to "redeploy business and industries in the Pontiac to counter major economic losses to the neighbouring province of Ontario."

The region has still not recovered from the forestry crisis that rocked the area in 2008, McCrank said.

Before the press conference, McCrank was in Gatineau with top municipal staffer Rémi Bertrand to sign an injunction request against CN to stop the removal of the railway.

"We have a law in place and this is the livelihood of the Pontiac," said Bertrand. "We will not be bullied by them. The people that know me, know that I never step down."

Bertrand said the Pontiac will see the legal battle through and will not be intimidated by CN's deep pockets.

The barricade locals put in place on the rail line last week to prevent contractors from tearing it up was reduced to one truck on Monday morning, but there were no signs of CN employees or contractors.

CN temporarily halts Pontiac rail removal after hearing

OTTAWA - A truck that blocked a rail line in Portage du Fort, Que., for a week was moved Tuesday after CN rail agreed to respect a court order that the company stop pulling up the tracks.

Mayors from Quebec's MRC Pontiac region parked the truck across the tracks last week when the rail company said it would ignore a bylaw designating the land in the vicinity for "rail use only."

The bylaw, meant to legally stop the tracks from being removed, was passed because politicians in the region say the railway is their only hope for renewing the area's flagging economy.

CN has argued that the tracks are federal jurisdiction and so the bylaw has no bearing.

A hearing in Gatineau Tuesday ordered CN halt work on dismantling the contentious tracks while the issue is before the courts.

The MRC Pontiac and CN will return to court in Gatineau on Oct. 10 and 11 to argue whether or not the company needs to respect the bylaw.

Remi Bertrand, chief administrative officer for the MRC Pontiac, said he's confident going forward.

"If it were clear black and white that there's only the federal laws that apply, the court would have said that today, I think," Bertrand said. "So if they want to go more in-depth, it's because there's grounds for opening up the debate."

The municipalities are asking the Quebec Federation of Municipalities for help covering the legal costs because the decision could set a precedent for other Quebec communities, Bertrand said.

"When there's a bylaw in place, it needs to be respected," he said. "That's why laws are there."

Give Pontiac more time to find buyer for CN rail line, Ottawa councillors ask

OTTAWA - Several west-end councillors want to help the Pontiac regional government in the Outaouais protect a precious rail line that Canadian National intends to tear up.

Next week, Ottawa city council's transportation committee is to debate writing a letter to CN asking it to give the Pontiac government more time to find someone else to take the line over, an idea proposed by Kanata North Coun. Marianne Wilkinson.

The 123-kilometre line runs from a junction near western Carling Avenue in Ottawa to Pembroke, crossing the Ottawa River twice and running through the Pontiac a good part of the way. It used to be a lifeline for freight moving to and from the Ottawa Valley, but as industry has waned so has rail traffic; CN wants to take the line up and reuse it elsewhere, ending the dreams of many on both sides of the river that the railway could once again spur economic development. Earlier this month, a Pontiac government worker parked a truck across the line to keep CN equipment from getting to work. A court hearing is coming over whether the Pontiac has the authority to forbid CN to take the line up. In the meantime, MRC Pontiac is looking for another operator.

"The MRC Pontiac strongly believes that the maintenance of this railway is critical to the economic growth in the area and its loss would be a severe blow to economic health of the area," says a report Wilkinson filed with the transportation committee. The idea of writing a letter has the backing of councillors Eli El-Chantiry and Mark Taylor, whose wards include pieces of the line.

The City of Ottawa has no direct use for the line "it's not part of any official transportation or economic-development plans, though many people would like to see commuter rail on disused railways" and has declined to buy it. In principle, though, the city would like to see it stay on the ground and in operation. Writing a letter supporting the Pontiac government is about the smallest possible action the city could take while still officially doing something.

10/10/2013 *Renfrew Today**Beachburg**Portage du Fort*

The MRC Pontiac will be in court over the next two days to argue that CN Rail has no business pulling up the tracks through the Pontiac. By end of day Friday, a judge is expected to rule on whether or not CN has to respect a Pontiac bylaw which designates the land within the railway's vicinity as "for rail use only", effectively preventing CN from removing the tracks. The bylaw was what the Quebec municipalities describe as a "life or death" attempt to save an economic lifeline. CN has already removed the tracks from Pembroke to the Quebec border, and last August, the MRC Pontiac put up a blockade at Portage Du Fort to prevent CN from going any further. After discussions, the rail company agreed to hold off on any further dismantling of the line until the hearing that begins this morning is over.

30/01/2014 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Portage du Fort*

Ottawa places potential purchase of railway line on hold.

Buying part of a railway line between Ontario and Quebec isn't worth it for Ottawa, according to city staff, so Ottawa will hold off on a potential purchase until the railway is decommissioned.

After a surplus portion of the Beachburg Subdivision line was slated to be ripped by the Canadian National Railway, Ottawa's transportation committee wanted to know how much it would cost to buy part of the line. The price for the whole line and its tracks is \$21.7 million.

The city also wrote a letter requesting a delay in the tracks being scrapped, to help Quebec communities in the Pontiac that were hoping to save the freight tracks to boost the economy.

But a report from Ottawa's deputy city manager Nancy Schepers, bound for the city's transportation committee next week, declares staff will not pursue a purchase while the tracks remain.

Costs "measured in the millions of dollars" and responsibilities of running a rail line wouldn't benefit the city enough, Schepers wrote.

"Furthermore, the purchase of active railways would require these expenditures to be made with little or no benefit in return for the City and residents," she said.

The Pontiac lost a court injunction application late last year that would have bought more time to find a buyer. The line's Renfrew County tracks have already been ripped up and no potential buyers had come forward for the rest as of December, the report said.

If the Pontiac isn't successful in finding a partner or operator of the railway, and CN approaches Ottawa about the portion here, the city "will move to reach a purchase agreement for the corridor lands," the report states.

Locally, the line runs from near western Carling Avenue in Ottawa and extends to Pembroke. It crosses the Ottawa River twice.

07/04/2015 *Ottawa Citizen**Beachburg**Federal*

How Ottawa's 'town that never was' went off the rails, to be forgotten

(with sketch and aerial photo)

A piece of Ottawa history hidden for almost 100 years off Hunt Club Road was quietly buried recently to make room for a mall parking lot. It was called Rideau Yard and it was the nucleus of a town that never was.

Ottawa at one time had a number of railway roundhouses, including one at 300 West Hunt Club Rd. The site, concealed for a century in a vacant industrial lot near Antares Drive, had been our last roundhouse location to survive development.

I noticed the remains of the site when I saw a large circular pit in a vacant field. With some research, I learned it was a remnant of a large railway station and century-old ghost town called "Rideau Yard" that was built in 1915.

Constructed by the Canadian Northern Railway company, Rideau Yard opened with great expectations of handling both freight and passenger rail traffic passing between Quebec and Vancouver on the newly constructed TransContinental Rail line. This grand, new station south of Ottawa was an ambitious development that housed an 80-foot turntable and a 15-stall roundhouse, where steam locomotives were maintained. Later re-named Federal Yard, it was to be the epicentre for Ottawa's newest suburb, boasting a summer hotel and residential streets mapped out close to the Rideau River.

Yet this vision of a new town south of Ottawa never came to fruition and eventually fell into financial troubles. Canadian Northern Railway shut down Rideau Yard and the dreams of their south Ottawa development came to an end in 1922.

The hotel was being used by railway employees instead of visiting passengers, and the roundhouse and other auxiliary buildings were demolished some time around 1930. Their ruins became cloaked in overgrowth up until last month when it was finally buried to make way for a new mall.

I had wanted to document what was left of this century-old railway station before it was lost forever. A 1980 edition of the Bytown Railway Society publication "Branch Line" included a series of maps and recollections by former employees. This helped me reconstruct what may have been there.

On the site, there was a vast area of roundhouse ruins with railway artifacts strewn about. An aerial image from the National Air Photo Library clearly shows the outline of the old roundhouse building and the turntable.

Bricks from the roundhouse, pieces of twisted metal and other remnants of the lost station have now been buried under the development, which according to the Trinity Development Group website plan, will now become a Sandman Hotel.

When I explored the area last November, the turntable's open pit and centre pivot structure were concealed under a cover of vegetation but it was easy to imagine a once bustling railway station and steam locomotives trundling on their way in and out of Ottawa on the TransContinental line.

Using the similar roundhouse and turntable complex that was restored and is currently maintained by Toronto's Railway Museum and the Steam Whistle Brewery in Toronto for comparison, we can visualize what Ottawa's Rideau Yard station may have looked like when it was in operation 100 years ago.

Once labelled the most contaminated site in Ottawa, this "brownfield" property is now owned by Toronto's Unitrin and Triform Developments, which were given a grant from the City of Ottawa to deal with the contaminated land.

Railway infrastructure upgrade for better service in your area

VIA Rail Canada Inc. inform you about the upcoming upgrade of the railway infrastructure in your neighbourhood. Beginning the week of May 4, construction will begin on a new siding track near the Revelstoke community of Ottawa South.

The map below illustrates the section of track where construction will take place.

The work will begin in the non-residential area on the western side (indicated in red), transitioning into the residential area later in the week (indicated in blue). The project will be completed in two phases: preparation of grading (May-June) and track and signal work (June - early September). Construction activities could generate noise, vibration and dust from certain activities at the beginning of the project. Please be advised that in order to ensure the project is completed on schedule, some night construction work is anticipated. VIA Rail Canada Inc. is working closely with the City of Ottawa and our contractors to conduct this work with minimal disturbance to local residents.

In addition to improving the comfort, safety and reliability of our transportation service for our local customers, these upgrades form part of our commitment to the City of Ottawa to improve traffic flow along at high congestion crossings, particularly during rush hour periods.

In addition to the siding track construction, our contractor will be conducting vegetation control on VIA Rail Canada property along the rail line. In accordance with Track Safety regulations, VIA Rail Canada Inc. is required to ensure vegetation on our property does not impede sight lines to the traffic signal system and that any vegetation that poses a potential fire hazard or safety risk are cut back or removed. This includes vegetation that poses a safety risk of falling onto private property or the rail tracks themselves. This work will be confined to VIA Rail Canada's right-of-way on the rail line and will consist of cutting of brush and vegetation which constitute a hazard to the public as well as VIA Rail Canada employees. As required, prior notification of brush cutting adjacent to a residential property will be provided.

21/02/2019 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Pleasant Park

A female pedestrian has died after being struck by a Via Rail train on Thursday afternoon.

It happened around 2 p.m. on the tracks near Pleasant Park Road, near the Ottawa Hospital's Riverside campus.

Ottawa Police said the woman died of her injuries at the scene.

Via Rail said in a statement that the train had 127 passengers on board and was travelling from Toronto to Ottawa. No one on board was injured.

Three city buses were arriving to transport passengers to the Ottawa train station, the statement said.

Pleasant Park Road is closed between Leslie Avenue and Cavendish Road.

Police were asking people to avoid the area Thursday afternoon

22/02/2019 Ottawa Citizen Beachburg Pleasant Park

A female pedestrian has died after being struck by a train in Alta Vista, police said Thursday (21/2). Officers were called at 2:07 p.m. Pleasant Park Road was closed between Leslie Avenue and Cavendish Road for the investigation.

In a statement, Via Rail confirmed a train between Toronto and Ottawa, carrying 127 passengers, was in a collision involving a trespasser on the Beachburg sub around 2:00 p.m. today.

"No passengers or on-train service crew were injured during the incident."

Via said it was too early to provide any more detail. City buses were scheduled to ferry passengers to the Ottawa station.

Via Rail acknowledges that this situation has an impact on the travel plans of our customers and we apologize for the inconvenience. We are focusing our efforts into bringing customers currently en-route to their final destinations as quickly and as safely as possible."

A north-south rail line crosses Pleasant Park adjacent to the Pleasant Park Transitway stop.

City of Ottawa exploring purchase of two abandoned south-end railway lines

The City of Ottawa is exploring the purchase of CN Railway's abandoned Beachburg and Walkley railway lines in the city's south end for potential commuter transportation in the future.

Negotiations are at an informal stage, said Vivi Chi, the city's director of transportation planning, during a recent transportation committee meeting.

The Beachburg and Walkley corridors will become available for purchase as soon as the rail company issues a formal notice of discontinuance.

CN is planning to cease operations along the two lines after rail traffic fell below the levels required for the company to maintain ownership.

"This potential corridor could represent a low-cost, high-capacity rail corridor for our future given the area it goes through and the connection with the west of Ottawa," Capital Coun. Shawn Menard said at the meeting.

These corridors, located just inside the Greenbelt and running roughly parallel to Hunt Club Road, are attractive to the city because of how they connect to other rail lines.

The Beachburg corridor, which used to be part of a transcontinental line linking Montreal and Vancouver, begins at Hurdman - which is also a stop on the new LRT Confederation line.

The Walkley corridor begins at Walkley Yard and also connects to Hurdman.

"There are plenty of opportunities to connect different parts of the city," said David Jeanes, a rail transportation advocate with the not-for-profit group Transport Action Canada.

Jeanes is urging the city to purchase the corridor because of its connections with the Trillium and Confederation LRT lines.

"These lines are like a ring road. It's a crosstown route that links across the growing parts of the city (in Ottawa's south end) to the north-south part of the city," said Jeanes.

In a 2007 report examining Ottawa's transit future, the two CN corridors were considered for use in Ottawa's future LRT network. In that early vision, instead of having the LRT go through downtown, it would have connected the western part of the city with Ottawa South using these lines.

The corridors are also compatible with the city's transit technology, Jeanes said, making them even more attractive.

An interview with rail transportation advocate David Jeanes on the potential the two corridors have to connect with the current transit system. Interview by Hamza Ali.

Chi said that what the corridors would be used for specifically would be reviewed.

The city already owns the Renfrew, Carleton Place and Prescott railway lines. The municipality is stockpiling corridors that can potentially be used for the urban transportation network.

"The corridor is a potential expansion of Ottawa's rail system," Menard said in a statement supporting an eventual purchase, "and would represent a very affordable way of getting from central Ottawa to the west end and vice versa."

He added: "The reason it is so compelling is it is outside the traditional core but is in high-density, traditionally congested areas. Surface commuter rail would be a very welcome addition for us, in my view."

"The law actually encourages the city to purchase abandoned corridors that could potentially be used in the future," said Jeanes.

When a corridor owner intends to sell, it must tell the government about that plan. This gives the government an opportunity to purchase the rail line to help benefit the public.

Governments also acquire these lines at salvage value instead of the commercial price.

When a private company - excluding railway companies - purchases a railway line, they often buy it for the land to then sell for a profit. It is unusual for a private company to maintain or improve a rail line, said Jeanes.

Menard said the city would fund the purchase as part of its normal capital expenditures.

There is no schedule for negotiations. But the city has up to three years to negotiate a deal after being notified when rail corridors become available.

Negotiations can go to arbitration, during which the Canadian Transportation Authority would be brought in to determine a salvage value.

"It is the city's intent to acquire the lands," Menard said.

The City of Ottawa is buying another rail corridor, first to be used as a pathway

The city is buying an old railway corridor that could one day be used as an O-Train connection from Kanata North to central Ottawa.

That day, however, is likely a long way off.

But the city doesn't want to let a railway corridor go to waste, so it has negotiated with CN to acquire 35.2 kilometres of a defunct train route running from the eastern edge of Kanata North all the way west to Morris Island Drive near the Ottawa River.

Until it's ready to be returned as a rail line, the corridor could be used as a recreational pathway.

Derrick Moodie, the city director in charge of corporate real estate, told council in a memo to expect a report later this year that will propose acquiring part of the old Beachburg [sic] Subdivision railway.

It would cost \$740,000, a steeply discounted rate from assessed land values of between \$6.6 million and \$8.8 million. The negotiated price was much lower in recognition of the lack of demand for the land and the belief that there's currently no financial viability to operate a train system on the corridor.

The city still needs to assess what kind of work is required on the corridor, since there are about seven bridges and 52 culverts. Staff intend to report the maintenance costs to council.

The city has a policy to acquire railway corridors when they become available and if there's funding. There are a couple other old corridors in the city's portfolio; one corridor acquired from CP in 2005 eventually became today's Trillium Line.

City staff in 2019 also informed council that they were considering the acquisition of a second discontinued rail corridor, the Walkley corridor, that cuts across the city, including over the Trillium Line. Moodie's memo didn't mention the Walkley rail corridor.

OTTAWA -- The city of Ottawa is set to purchase a former CN Rail corridor in the west end, which could be used for transportation or recreational purposes in the future.

A report for the Finance and Economic Development Committee recommends purchasing the 32.5 kilometre Beachburg Subdivision corridor for \$740,000.

The corridor starts in the western Greenbelt, and extends northwest through Kanata terminating at Morris Island Drive, just east of the Ottawa River. It passes south and west of Department of National Defence Facilities, near existing employment and residential areas of Kanata, and has seven bridges and 52 culverts.

"The rail corridor has been decommissioned, has not been used for many years, and the railway tracks and ties have been removed," says the report for the Oct. 5 FEDCO meeting.

"The corridor is used and maintained by the West Carleton Snowmobile Trails Association (WCSTA), which has a 20-year license with CN that expires in 2038." Staff say purchasing the corridor to Morris Island Drive enables the city to provide a potential connection to a location near the conservation area.

"The acquisition of the corridor lands and bridge will provide an opportunity for the city to improve the road network at this location and upgrades to the Carling Avenue Cycling project without having to independently acquire the land," said the report.

The city of Ottawa's Official Plan Rights-of-Way Protection Policy states that the city will purchase surplus railway rights-of-way and consider purchasing railway corridor properties as they become available, and reserve them for future transportation and infrastructure purposes.

The City of Ottawa will complete the purchase of an old rail corridor through north Kanata and the rural west area. Council approved the \$740,000 purchase of part of the old Beachburg Subdivision between the western part of the Greenbelt and Morris Island Conservation Area. It's a 35-kilometre corridor that could help the city's long-term transportation needs.