

Local Railway Items from Area Papers - Lachute subdivision

03/06/1882 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

Montreal 2nd. The Canada Pacific Railway directors will take over the western section of the Occidental Railway tomorrow, all arrangements having been perfected. The eastern section will not be transferred for some time longer.

28/10/1882 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

Attention is directed to the important changes in the timetable of the CPR which appears in this issue. From 1st November lightning express trains will leave Ottawa at 9.30 a.m. reaching Montreal at 1.20 p.m. and at 6 p.m. reaching Montreal at 9.58 a.m.

Note - the Grand Trunk also is advertising trains leaving at 0800 and 1645 arriving 1145 and 2020.

06/02/1883 Ottawa Citizen Lachute Ottawa, Broad Street

Yesterday, an accident, fortunately attended with no loss of life or personal injury, occurred on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway close to Ottawa. It appears that the early passenger train from Aylmer was running into the city at a moderate rate, and when only some two hundred yards from the station collided with a freight train which was also going at a slow speed. The passenger train was on its usual time and on the main line, but owing to a dense fog which prevailed its approach was not seen by the parties in charge of the special freight in time to prevent the collision. Damage sustained by the cars is estimated at \$3,000. A gang of men were set to work at once to clear the track and the debris was removed last evening. An investigation into the cause of the collision will be held at once.

Investigation - carelessness on the part of certain employees and their services were promptly dispensed with.

Also reported in the Ottawa Free Press Monday February 5 and Renfrew Mercury February 9.

09/02/1883 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

New parlour cars. Two parlour cars "Lachine" and "Carillon" will replace the cars on the line which will be put on the Ottawa - Brockville run. Full description. Also reported in the Ottawa Free Press on February 8.

26/03/1883 Ottawa Citizen Lachute Calumet

Early on Sunday morning as a down freight train on the Canadian Pacific Railway was crossing the Rouge River near Calumet station, the wheel of one of the cars broke and it, with the four following cars, was precipitated over the bridge, a distance of sixty feet. They broke through the ice and went to the bottom. There were no lives lost. The engine did not leave the track, and all the train hands were together in a tool car which escaped the wreck. The car whose defective wheel was the cause of the disaster was not a part of the regular railway rolling stock but belonged to another company. Strange to say, no damages were done to the bridge. The inspector, Mr. Wood, examined it thoroughly and pronounced it to be in a perfectly satisfactory condition. The loss is estimated at about \$20,000, but this is probably above the mark. A large gang of men are employed endeavouring to recover the freight.

12/03/1884 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

Interesting long account of a trip between Montreal and Ottawa fighting the snow, snow drifts etc.

09/07/1884 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

Fast time for Toronto.

A new timetable for the section of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Montreal and Toronto via Ottawa will come into effect on Monday 21st. By this new arrangement there will then be eight passenger trains between Ottawa and Montreal instead of four as at present. The time calculated for between Montreal and Toronto is twelve hours and the trains will be equipped with the best rolling stock which the company can procure. Two of the sleepers the "Quebec" and the "Peterborough" passed through here on Saturday and are as handsome and easy riding as were ever turned out of any car shops.

13/01/1885 Hull, Vallee d'Ottawa Lachute Gatineau

Gatineau. Le chemin de fer du Pacifique a ici une station don't l'utilite est encore une enigme. Non seulement les trains express lui passent au nez a toute vapeur, mais les trains mixtes so font prier pour y faire un arret le quelques secondes. Sous pretexte que les affaires ne payaient point la compagnie a ferme son bureau, retire son agent et oblige aujourd'hui nos marchands qui recoivent leurs effets de Montreal, a aller les chercher aux entrepots de Hull ou d'Ottawa.

15/07/1885 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

On and after July 13th the CPR will attach of their magnificent parlour cars to the local express for Montreal leaving Ottawa at 8.20 a.m. daily.

27/07/1885 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

On and after the 25th the parlour car on the 8.20 a.m. express will be discontinued.

05/08/1885 Hull, Vallee d'Ottawa Lachute

Il est passe hier, a Ottawa, en route pour Papineauville un train de 22 chars charges de bois carre et de bis de service choix. Ce bois appartient de M. David Moore et vient de North Bay. Ce bois sera mise en cage a Papineauville par M. Joseph Grondin, de Papineauville et M. Racioc de Montebello et de la descendra par eau jusqu'a Quebec ou il sera mis a bord des navires pour Europe.

28/10/1885 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

Through to the Rockies

As will be seen by an advertisement in another column, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have perfected arrangements for the running of through passenger trains between Montreal and the Rocky Mountains, commencing Monday next. An express train consisting of sleeper and elegant first class sleeping cars will leave Montreal every week day at 2 p.m. for Port Arthur, Winnipeg and the Canadian North West.

03/11/1885 Ottawa Free Press Lachute Chaudiere

At 5.45 last evening the Union depot was the scene of much stir, the occasion being the arrival of the first through train from Montreal to Winnipeg. The train consisted of a sleeper, a dining car, a first class car, an emigrant and a baggage car. More.

04/11/1885

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Chaudiere

Much of this article is illegible
Through Train

Ottawa now on the main line of the All Canadian Route to the Rockies

The train which arrives every evening at Union station from Montreal at 5.27 o'clock is something of which all patriotic Canadians and Ottawaites should view with pride...

On Monday evening it consisted of a locomotive and tender, baggage car, emigrant sleeper, one first class car, a dining room car, and a first class sleeper...

The route although only two days opened, is well patronized, the fast train taking through to Winnipeg 47 first class and 38 second class passengers, and a still larger number going through last night.

31/05/1886

Ottawa Journal

Lachute

Defacing the Cars

An irate conductor.

A few days ago as the Montreal 8.30 train was speeding on through Templeton at a forty-mile-an-hour rate, conductor Spencer's eye caught a calculating Frenchman footing up his probable profits on a railway contract, on one of the panels of a new car in which he reclined in a seat isolated from his fellow passengers. "Hello!" said the conductor, "What's that you are about?" "Only making a few figures," replied the passenger, who was no greenhorn on the road.

"Well, then. Do your figuring somewhere else than on the sides of a new car - this rolling stock is not intended to be used in that manner," angrily spoke the authority, the chop-fallen passenger proceeding to use his pocket handkerchief to erase the figures. To a fellow traveller, Mr. Spencer explained that he and his fellow conductors had trouble watching careless and troublesome passengers, who did not hesitate to use even jack knives in the second class cars unless under constant supervision. A few days previously a man had taken passage in a first class car, smuggling in a bottle from which he partook at times, until finally, in a state of obfuscation, he thought of getting rid of the bottle by putting it through the window, oblivious to the fact that a dollar pane of glass stood in the way.

The dollar was promptly demanded and promptly paid.

04/06/1886

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Papineauville

Timber by rail. Barnett and MacKay's square timber cut on the Sturgeon River has all passed Sturgeon Falls en route to Cache Bay from which point it will be shipped by CPR to Papineauville. The C.P.R. Co. are building a spur a mile long, striking the river above the falls, where D.&E.D. Moore will boom and load their square timber. The iron will be laid in a few days - Canada Lumberman.

06/09/1886

Ottawa Journal

Lachute

The Canadian Pacific is strengthening the bridges on its line between Montreal and Ottawa. The bridge work on that part of the line is pronounced now to be equal to similar work on any road in the world.

09/10/1886

Ottawa Journal

Lachute

Hull

The morning train from Aylmer yesterday had a narrow escape from being wrecked. It was crossing the main line of the C.P.R. on its way to the city with the usual number of Civil Service and other employees here who reside in Aylmer when the Montreal freight train from Ottawa dashed through the cutting and was only stopped within a few feet of the passenger car crossing the track. It seems several cars broke from the freight train while crossing the bridge, which caused a delay so nearly resulting in a serious accident.

12/01/1887

Ottawa Journal

Lachute

The heated car in connection with the Canadian Pacific freight company will be up this evening. It makes two regular trips a week.

10/06/1887

Ottawa Free Press

Lachute

Gatineau Point

The C.P.R. station at Gatineau Point is opened again and there is also a telegraph operator.

13/08/1887

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

A new timetable will shortly come into effect on the Canadian Pacific Railway. The local train which leaves Montreal in the morning for Ottawa, arriving here at 11.35 a.m. and the 4.20 p.m. train from Ottawa to Montreal will be abolished as soon as the Smiths Falls short line railway comes into operation. The train leaves Ottawa at 8 o'clock in the forenoon and returns in the evening, and the through Winnipeg express will be the only remaining one on the line. To obviate any inconvenience it is proposed to put on a steamer between Ottawa and Grenville.

14/02/1888

Ottawa Journal

Lachute

Gatineau

The Winnipeg express collided with an up freight train near the Gatineau River bridge this morning. No injuries. Much more.

The exact cause of the accident could not be ascertained as the train hands and officials of the road were all as dumb as oysters.

Also reported in the Ottawa Free Press.

28/07/1888

Ottawa Journal

Lachute

Gatineau Point

A spark from a C.P.R. locomotive ignited the grass near the station at Gatineau Point, the flames were extinguished with difficulty.

25/04/1889

Ottawa Journal

Lachute

Chaudiere

A Chaudiere Wedding

Mr. George Dalglish, boiler inspector in the C.P.R. roundhouse, second son of Ald. Dalglish was married yesterday to Miss. Bella Marshall. More.

The happy couple were escorted by their friends to the C.P.R. station where they left for Quebec and the east by the 4.30 train. The employees of the road gave them a grand send off. They lined the track for a long way with fog signals which went off like a regular military salute as the cars rolled over them. As the train passed the round house all the engines that were in, about a dozen, set up a toot-a-toot-tooting, that made the initiated wonder what was up.

Also reported in the Citizen, but in less detail.

31/05/1889

Lachute Watchman

Lachute

St. Andrews

We are sorry if the people of Lachute do not realise the importance of railway connection between Lachute and St. Andrews. From a selfish point of view they should strongly be interested as it must necessarily increase the volume of trade. We presume that the days of rivalry between the two places are past. Lachute need not be alarmed at the growth of St. Andrews interfering with its trade, our opinion is that Lachute, being established as a centre of trade, the growth of villages contiguous to it must necessarily be of great benefit. Should the south shore not be built, the building of which is exceedingly doubtful, the trade from Pointe Fortune, up on the south side of the Ottawa will naturally find its way to Montreal by Lachute. The storekeepers would find no doubt a reduction of freight rates in summer. The development of the water power at Carillon must also indirectly benefit us. We hail with pleasure the prospect of railway connection with St. Andrews. It is a project which will increase the wealth of the county and develop its resources, and as such, should interest every resident to whatever particular locality he may belong.

At the request of Mr. Mercier, on Tuesday last, a deputation consisting of Messrs. J.A.N. McKay, J.S. Buchan and Mr. Davis, son-in-law to Hon. J.K. Ward, interviewed the government in regard to a re-vote of a subsidy of 400 acres of land per mile to the St. Andrews railway. Mr. Mercier gave his word of honor that by the first of July an official letter or an order in-council would be issued guaranteeing that the old subsidy would be voted, but conditionally. The conditions were at once fulfilled and no doubt work will shortly commence. If the road is built, it will be the outcome of the efforts of several gentlemen, of both political parties, viz; Messrs. Abbott, Wilson, Owens, McKay, Simpson, de Laronde, Robertson and others.

Ninety cars of rails

P.P.J. Ry. and G.V. Ry. metals bought by the C.P.R.

Ten miles of steel rails lying at Hull and Aylmer for each road now being loaded in C.P.R. cars to go west - why the sale was made.

Large quantities of steel rails have for some time been piled at the Hull and Aylmer depots of the C.P.R., the former having been purchased in England for use in the construction of the Gatineau Valley Railway and the latter for similar purposes on the Pontiac Pacific Junction. To many of those who have looked for the commencement of active work on the Gatineau line, these rails were signs of promise, but their hearts sank within them Saturday morning when they saw long lines of cars drawn up, and the metals were being rapidly deposited within them. Enquiries made of the men engaged in the work elicited the reply that the rails were going west to be used on sidings in the Rocky Mountain section of the C.P.R.

Mr. Harris, the chief engineer of construction of both lines, was seen today by the Journal, and said, "Yes, the C.P.R. has bought steel from both companies.

You see there were twenty miles of steel lying at each place, which was bought in England when prices were much lower. The C.P.R. wanted to purchase and Mr. Beemer made arrangements to sell them half of each, so that he obliges them and makes money out of it for both lines, at the same time. They will ship 10 miles of steel rails from each place to Calgary and the remaining rails will stay where they are for use. It was no use our keeping all the rails there, as it was decided to build only ten miles of the Gatineau line this year. It has not been decided yet whether the Pontiac & Pacific Railway will be continued this year or not.

When do you begin work on the Gatineau Valley road?

We have begun, and hope in a few days to have between 400 and 500 men at work. Mr. Wm. Ryan, who is foreman of construction, is at present in Quebec bringing up the plant. Wages will be from \$1.15 to \$1.25 a day, and we want every man we can get, as the ten miles have to be completed by Jan. 1, 1890. I am chief engineer of construction, and Mr. Dunne (sic) is the engineer on the work at present. We have begun work between Ironsides and Chelsea.

Mr. Trudeau, Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, said: "Yes, it is true that the plans and books of references of the Gatineau Valley line for the first section from Hull to lot 13 in the 11th range of Hull township have been deposited with us, and we are assured that the work will be carried on right away. It is true that the charter has been renewed twice, and if work is not really begun this year the charter will lapse.

Mr. C.R. Cairns, depot Agent of the C.P.Ry., said: I do not know what the rails are to be used for, all that I know is that I have orders to supply 90 boxcars for shipping metals of 20 tons capacity each.

The valuation of properties on the section of line for which the plans and reference books are deposited will be carried out by Mr. Mullarkey of Aylmer.

31/10/1889 *Ottawa Free Press*

Lachute

Hull

The Canadian Pacific Railway company have built a siding at Tetreaultville, near Hull, which is of great convenience to shippers in that vicinity, especially to Mr. C.B. Wright, whose brickyard is close by.

12/12/1889 *Ottawa Free Press*

Lachute

Chaudiere bridge

Nine years ago yesterday the C.P.R. bridge just built over the Ottawa river at the Chaudiere, was tested for the first time by a long train of flat cars bearing prominent citizens and railway officials, besides representatives of the Free Press and other papers. The solid structure has withstood the test of time since that date.

04/06/1890 *Ottawa Journal*

Lachute

Brief visit of Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and the Duchess via the CPR.

04/06/1890 *Ottawa Citizen*

Lachute

Chaudiere

Royal visit of Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

Arrive 1.15 p.m. on C.P.R. train from Montreal. They returned to Montreal by special C.P.R. train at 4 p.m.

08/11/1890 *Ottawa Citizen*

Lachute

For some time past thieves have been at work along the lines of the C.P.R. on the Quebec side. Recently they were located in the Cumberland district where a night or two ago they broke into a car and carried off a quantity of biscuits and other goods. Last night three of the gang were arrested by Constable Hornidge, of the Union Depot, and were locked up in the Hull Police Station.

21/11/1890 *Ottawa Journal*

Lachute

Ottawa, Broad Street

The C.P.R. depot is to be lighted with incandescent light.

25/12/1891 *Lachute Watchman*

Lachute

St. Andrews

The St. Andrews Railroad Opened

It has come at last and now regular trains are running between St. Andrews and Lachute every day. The first trip was made on Wednesday evening (23rd), leaving St. Andrews at 5.50 p.m. and arriving in Lachute at 5.08 (sic). The night was a most disagreeable one, but notwithstanding quite a number of villagers assembled to view the departure of the first passenger train. The train hands were, Supt. Heath, Conductor Hess, Fireman Laroque, Brakesman Hessman while R. Neil ran the engine. The passengers were Messrs. Geo. Simpson, I. Sauve, M. Wanless, C. Ladouceur, H. Ladouceur, C.T. Wales, W.J. Simpson, G.F. Calder, C. Calder, J.W. Cottingham and Geo. Campbell. The run, strictly speaking, was made in 16 minutes, including one stop. Several passengers for St. Andrews came off the Montreal train and were delighted to have escaped a long miserable drive in a dark rainy night. The train leaves St. Andrews every morning at 9 a.m. and 5.50 p.m. Returning leaves Lachute on the arrival of the westbound train. Passengers for St. Andrews coming from Ottawa on the evening train can hold the train until their arrival by telegraphing from Calumet. The fare to Lachute is 25 cents.

15/01/1892 *Lachute Watchman*

Lachute

St. Andrews Railway

Last week the engines of the St. Andrews Railway collided at the Foundry street crossing smashing the cowcatchers.

19/02/1892 *Lachute Watchman*

Lachute

St. Andrews

The tremendous storm of Sunday night has completely blocked the St. Andrews Railway. All the trains on the C.P.R. were supplied with two engines and even then were late. The snow plough arrived here around ten o'clock and cleared the way.

31/03/1892 *Ottawa Journal*

Lachute

Hull

Wreck of the Soo train. See accident file. (also covered by the Citizen)

02/04/1892 *Ottawa Journal*

Lachute

Hull

Continuation of inquest on Hull accident.

12/04/1892 *Ottawa Journal*

Lachute

Hull

Finding of the jury on the inquest into the Hull accident.

Censured station agent who did not see the disastrous switch, disapprove of switch and target, speed of train too rapid.

01/10/1892 Canada Lumberman Lachute

A gang of drunken shantymen on the C.P.R. train on the way from Montreal to Ottawa made a brutal attack on a brakeman, kicking and pummeling him in a shameful manner. When the train reached Ottawa two of the most violent of the company were arrested. The C.P.R. authorities say they are determined to make an example of those men who attempt to terrorize over their employees

02/12/1892 Ottawa Free Press Lachute

Before the train left Montreal on Monday night the baggage man of the westbound express was handled a parcel for Mattawa, which was placed in the car with the other baggage. Soon after the train started the parcel commenced to send forth fumes of smoke, and dynamite at once suggested itself to the now suspicious trainmen. The car was soon deserted and all hands kept at a safe distance away from the spot of danger. At last Ottawa was reached and the police called upon. It was surely an explosive and no one would venture to handle the "infernal thing." Finally a long stick was procured, to the end of which a knife was tied, and, after considerable exertion, the police succeeded in bringing to view a rubber horse blanket, which had probably got wet and got heated. A laugh followed and the trainmen returned to their posts with the usual celerity. - North Bay Times.

11/02/1893 Ottawa Journal Lachute Chaudiere

Crashed on the "Y"

A serious collision occurred in the C.P.R. yard this morning.

Two engines were badly smashed, one baggage car wrecked, and eight freight cars more or less badly broken up.

The morning train from Aylmer and a pilot engine taking a train of freights from the yard collided on the "Y". The two engines crashed into each other with terrific force. The Aylmer train was going at the rate of about 15 miles per hour.

JUMPED FOR THEIR LIVES

Both the engineers and firemen had to jump for their lives. Fortunately none of them were injured, but it is stated that Mr. Alfred Legge, a civil engineer, who was on the Aylmer train had his shoulder dislocated.

BAGGAGE CAR TELESCOPED

When the trains collided the baggage car was hurled into the engine and the whole end stove in, and raised off the track. The Aylmer engine was coming down backwards, that is tender first. The pilot engine smashed into it and completely destroyed the tender. The pilot engine suffered very severely too. The smoke stack was hurled off the engine generally wrecked.

BROKEN FREIGHT CARS

Of the freight cars eight suffered considerably. The couplings were all forced off and the cars forced together so tightly so as to have been almost one car. Some of them had their end timbers and walls badly broken up.

PASSENGERS BADLY SHAKEN UP

The people on the train were badly shaken up, but with the exception of the one mentioned above, none were seriously injured.

Also reported in the Ottawa Free Press same date. The engine of the Aylmer train was running backwards and the tender was thrown upon the cowcatcher of the shunting engine.

15/02/1893 Ottawa Journal Lachute

As the CPR lease on the North Shore line expires next year CPR may drop it in favour of the Vaudreuil railroad.

09/06/1893 Ottawa Journal Lachute Hull water

The C.P.R. are making arrangements to secure a water supply at their station in Hull to be prepared in the event of fire breaking out. At present there are no hydrants near the city, and if a fire did start, it would be a very difficult matter to save the company's buildings.

12/07/1893 Ottawa Journal Lachute Hull

The C.P.R. are having the city waterworks of Hull extended to their depot in that city.

12/08/1893 Ottawa Free Press Lachute

When the C.P.R. train which passes Gatineau Point station about 8 a.m. was proceeding --

26/10/1893 Ottawa Free Press Lachute Gatineau

For some time past complaints have been heard among villagers at the head of the Gatineau over the fact that the Canadian Pacific railway do not stop their trains at the Gatineau depot. Mr. Crevier, notary of that village, who suffers from a very painful contusion to his ankle, has complained to the conductor that the trains, instead of stopping at the station run sometimes twenty acres further on. The affair has caused him no little bother and he decided last week to have some remuneration out of the company for the trouble caused to him in this way. An action for damages has been instituted in the circuit court of Hull, and Mr. Rochon, Q.C., will look after the interest of the plaintiff. Mr. Crevier told the Free Press yesterday that one day last week he was carried some fifteen acres past the station as usual and preferring to go on to this city he stayed on the train, although it was late at night. After his arrival in this city he passed down to Rockcliffe where he stood some two hours shouting for the ferrymen who were all asleep.

06/07/1894 Eastern Ontario Review Lachute Masson

A stick of Timber on the rails

The CPR train from Montreal yesterday evening had a narrow escape from being wrecked just outside of Buckingham. Mr WC Barnhardt of Montreal was a passenger by the train and brought the news to town last night. He states that when running at 40 miles an hour and passing a culvert, the engine was suddenly jerked into the air and the passengers in the coaches got a terrible shock. The engine got over the obstruction and was at once stopped. In making an investigation it was found that a very large stick of timber some 12 feet long had been put down through the culvert and wedged in between the ties. The heavy weight of the engine was sufficient to break the ties against which the stick of timber leaned and let down the engine. Had it not been for this breakup of the tie the whole train would have been derailed and the consequences must have been disastrous. There must have been more than one man on the work as it took five men to lift away the stick of timber. No one was hurt and the delay was a brief one.

The trainman and passengers saw no one loafing around and do not know whom to suspect of the dastardly deed.

07/07/1894 Quebec Saturday Budget Lachute Buckingham

A report reaches here from Buckingham that two tramps had been arrested for attempting to derail a C.P.R. train. Their manner of proceeding to accomplish their ends was most fiendish and deliberate. The attempt was made on the western C.P.R. train Wednesday. It was going west from Montreal and when a few miles this side of Buckingham a large stick of lumber was seen placed in the culvert. Had the culvert not given away the train certainly would have been wrecked. As it was the locomotive was raised in the air and it is miraculous how it and the other cars were not derailed.

30/08/1895 Ottawa Free Press Lachute Masson

The C.P.R. depot at Masson was broken into a few nights ago and 50 cents in coppers and a commercial travellers valise were carried away. Subsequently a Bible and other small articles, the contents of the valise, were found under some piles of lumber at Masson.

25/10/1895

Lachute Watchman

Lachute

Montfort Colonization

To Sixteen Island Lake by Rail

Had the early settlers among the forests and mountains of Wentworth been told that one day the puffs of the engine and its shrill whistle would startle the wild animals of that region, it would have been deemed a most unlikely story. But this age of progress has produced many wonders, and a railway in Wentworth is not one of the smallest. This has been accomplished by the energy, pluck and perseverance of a band of French-Canadians in Montreal, who several years ago, conceived the idea of colonizing the uninhabited regions of Quebec. A charter was obtained, a survey made as far as Arundel, and after seeking and obtaining aid from both governments, the work was commenced and is now completed as far as Sixteen Island Lake.

Last week, in company with Mr. Simpson, M.P.P. we took a trip over the road, a short account of which we will endeavor to give our readers. The officers of the Montfort Colonization Railway are E. Senecal, President, Joseph Brunet, Vice-President, Messrs. F. Froideveaux, Godf. Chap;eau and E.D. Porcheron, directors, A.S. Hamelin, Secretary-Treasurer. Leaving Montreal on the St. Jerome, in company with Mr. Froideveaux, one of its directors, we reached Montfort Junction, which is a few miles west of Shawbridge at about 7.30 where we took the other road. It is a narrow gauge line at present, although the road bed, grades and curves have been made the same as the standard gauge. The train consisted of the locomotive, which is for its size very powerful, and takes up the heavy grades, five or six cars without much apparent trouble; a second class and express car in one, and a very comfortable and nicely furnished first class car. The first stop after the junction is at St. Sauveur, a small but thriving village. Here the difficulties of construction commenced to be seen. An immense bank and a bridge across the North River made the first few miles very expensive. After leaving St. Sauveur we pass through a valley along which are some excellent farms until we reach Morin Flats, and now we are in Argenteuil. There is no station built here yet, but considerable business is carried on, Newton's mill evidently carrying on a fine trade. Standing at Morin Flats and looking around, one can scarcely imagine that an outlet could be found for a railway. On the west side is a series of mountains, but the engine is headed towards one of the largest and in a stealthy manner commences to creep around the base, and in a few seconds is winding around its side hugging the rocks where a narrow path has been blasted for it. The cost of making this portion must have been very great, but a good solid roadbed is the result. It is needless to say that the road abounds in curves. The curve is the only key to this mountainous region. At Montfort, we found, to our surprise a large, commodious and well built hotel. This hotel was built last year by Mr. Froideveaux and is kept by Mr. Plouffe. It (illegible) the side of a high hill overlooking Lake St. Francois Xavier. Just below this lake is another called Lake Chevreuil Deer Lake.

(Long Section about Agricultural Orphanage of Montfort)

From Montfort to the lake is eight miles and though one of the wildest regions of the province. The railway company has a Dominion subsidy for the next 12 miles which will bring the road to Arundel and it is hoped the Provincial Government will transfer a similar one. If so, this time next year the train will run to Arundel.

27/02/1896

Lachute Watchman

Lachute

The Montfort Railway

A deputation consisting of P. Leclair, M.P., Senators Villeneuve and Owens, W.J. Simpson, M.P.P., E. Senecal, E.D. Porcheron, F. Froideveaux, J.P. Rolland and others waited upon the Hon. Messrs. Haggart and Ouimet on Wednesday last for the purpose of asking that further subsidy should be granted to the Montfort Railway, so that it might be completed to Arundel next summer. The request was taken into consideration and the company asked to furnish complete plans and profiles.

19/03/1896

Lachute Watchman

Lachute

Montfort Colonization

Two engineers in connection with the Montfort railway have been at work completing the survey to the River Rouge. We trust that work will shortly be resumed upon the road and the sound of the locomotive be heard in our midst. We hope the government will urge the company to change the present narrow gauge into the standard.

02/04/1896

Lachute Watchman

Lachute

Montfort Colonization

The engineers on the Montfort Colonization Railway, who have been for some time preparing the final plans and profiles of the road have completed their work and sent in their report. It is hoped that the road will be continued during the coming summer.

21/05/1896

Lachute Watchman

Lachute

Parties desirous of getting into Montreal early in the evening can do so by taking the evening train due here at 5.57 and go as far as St. Philippe where the train passes the through express getting into Montreal at 8.40.

The suburban train which remains overnight in Lachute is receiving a fair patronage as a large quantity of mink is shipped by it. This train leaves in the morning at 7.25 and arrives in Montreal at 8.40. It leaves Montreal in the evening at 6.25, arriving in Lachute at 8.10. Conductor Crawford has charge of the train.

27/05/1898

Eastern Ontario Review

Lachute

The Northern Shore Electric Railway Company has been incorporated. It is stated this company will assume control of the road at present used by the C.P.R. between Montreal and Ottawa.

01/07/1898

Eastern Ontario Review

Lachute

Thurso

There was a washout on the C.P.R. at Thurso on Sunday last. The damage was not great.

08/07/1898

Eastern Ontario Review

Lachute

The C.P.R. have discontinued their sleeping car service between Ottawa and Montreal.

02/12/1898

Eastern Ontario Review

Lachute

Lachute

The safe in the C.P.R. station at Lachute was blown open last week. The burglars secured \$100.

23/09/1899

Eastern Ontario Review

Lachute

Lachute

A fatal accident in which three people lost their lives occurred at Lachute mills Monday evening about twenty minutes after eight. A man named Sauve, formerly of Hawkesbury, who has been working at the railroad bridge under construction by the Great Northern Railway Co., had gone on Monday morning to Hawkesbury to bring his wife and child and personal effects to Lachute. Just before he came to the C.P.R. track, he lost control of the horses and they bolted across the track immediately in front of the local going east which was descending the steep grade from St. Phillips. Emergency brakes were immediately applied but it was too late to save the people in the rig. The engine struck the express fair in the middle and the occupants, Sauve, his wife and child were immediately killed. The child's body was picked up about 60 feet from the crossing, the man's body was found lying in the bushes ninety feet father on the foot of the grade slope and the woman's body was found near the semaphore between the bridge, four hundred and fifty feet from the scene of the accident. The horses escaped without a scratch. The woman's body was badly mangled and the man had a large hole in his chest but the baby was apparently untouched and Drs. Christie and Menzies, who were early on the spot, say that it must have died of shock. Madame Sauve was a Miss Fleurent, formerly of Carillon and lately of Point Fortune and Hawkesbury. Her parents reside at Point Fortune and she was well known there.

This one happened in Ottawa and is absolutely true. Our readers will remember reading about the finding of a new born babe near the C.P.R. track at North Nation Mills about a year ago and that the investigation by the authorities disclosed the fact that a child had been born on the train the night previous to the finding of the child.

The following story is based on the above facts.

The telephone rang in the C.P.R. telegraph office at Ottawa and a messenger boy promptly responded to the call of a lady at the other end of the telephone and here is what took place.

The Lady:- Is that the C.P.R.?

Messenger boy - Yes, madame.

The Lady - well I want a berth on the train to Toronto tonight.

Messenger Boy - Well, I don't know. I think you had better call up the C.P.R. station. There was a good deal of trouble about the last birth.

The messenger boy has not since had any advance in his wages.

08/04/1903 *Ottawa Journal* *Lachute* *Calumet*

A rear end pitch in near Calumet caused the death of a brakeman.

10/04/1903 *Eastern Ontario Review* *Lachute* *Calumet*

A Collision at Calumet

A rear-end pitch-in on the Canadian Pacific Railway, north shore route, near Calumet at 4 o'clock Wednesday morning (8/4). Caused the instant death of brakeman Jos. Burns, formerly of Prescott but recently a resident of Hintonburg.

The collision occurred when the Soo train, going west, plunged into the rear of a freight. The van and three box cars were demolished.

Brakeman Burns was asleep in the van when the pitch-in occurred, and was instantly killed.

Engineer Jack Wilson and Fireman Hanson, of the Soo train, jumped in time to save themselves.

The engine was badly battered up.

Burns' remains were taken in charge of by his brother who brought them on to Ottawa. Mr. Burns brother happened to be at work on the line near where the accident occurred.

The cause of the pitch-in has not yet been made very clear. The freight had just pulled up to take the siding in order to let the express go by, but she did not get clear in time.

The express train was taken back to Outremont and brought up by way of the short line.

12/05/1903 *Ottawa Journal* *Lachute* *Cement Works*

Construction commenced on Hull Cement Works of the International Portland Cement Company..

The exact position of the buildings have been staked out and also the trackway from the CPR main line.

13/11/1903 *Ottawa Journal* *Lachute* *International Portland Ceme*

Progress at the Cement Works.

A visit to the International Portland Cement Company in Hull yesterday showed that great progress had been made with the works, and the 300 men working on the immense building promise to have the job completed in short order. The immense rotary machine grinder, weighing 50 tons and loaded on two cars, arrived yesterday and was placed on the track close to where the building it is to occupy is to be situated. This grinder will be filled with small coal to 3,000 degrees of heat, but when lined with firebrick the outside is quite cold. The company expect to manufacture from 150,000 to 200,000 tons of cement a year, and claim to have material in the shape of clay, sand and stone on the ground to last many years. One one side of the property is the Gatineau Valley Railway and on the other the C.P.R., both companies having put in special switches. Across the C.P.R. track is the Gatineau River, where a special shipping dock will be built.

18/12/1903 *Eastern Ontario Review* *Lachute* *Masson*

Buckingham station will in future be known as Masson.

06/05/1904 *Ottawa Journal* *Lachute* *Intrenational Portland Ceme*

The large factories of the International Portland Cement Company under course of construction near Hull are rapidly nearing completion.

03/06/1904 *Eastern Ontario Review* *Lachute* *Calumet*

To Wreck the Train

Some evil disposed person placed a telegraph pole across the C.P.R. tracks near Calumet last Monday night. The engineer noticed it in time to stop the train or there might have been a bad wreck. Detectivesd are now busy trying to locate the criminal.

18/04/1905 *Ottawa Journal* *Lachute* *Cement Works*

Cement plant at Hull has commenced operations. More.

19/05/1905 *Eastern Ontario Review* *Lachute* *Thurso*

Jumped off the Train

John Scully, an insane man, jumped off a C.P.R. train near Thurso, on Saturday last and made away as fast as he could go. He was recaptured by the constables who were supposed to be guarding him.

06/11/1905 *Ottawa Journal* *Lachute* *Hull*

Hull to have CPR shops

Company will carry out O.N.& W. promise

thereby securing exemption from taxation.

..it is known however that the company through Mr. Osborne promises to build shops in Hull at least as large as the Ottawa Northern and Western, under Mr. H.J. Beemer, agreed to erect in return from exemption from taxation.

The company, it is understood, also intends to proceed with a separate Central depot in Ottawa without waiting for the Grand Trunk to carry out its plans.

01/08/1906 *Victoria Daily Colonist* *Lachute*

Freight Trains Collide

In a collision between two C.P.R. freight trains at St. Rose, North Shore line, John Broom of Ottawa, engineer of the eastbound train wasa killed. A misplaced switch was the cause of the wreck.

Railway Tracks in Hull City

The city council of Hull are at present taken up with the question of tracks in and about their city.

A special committee of the council met last night when Mr. Baker of the C.P.R. representative of Sir Thos. Shaughnessy was present to talk over the subject of double tracking Hull, also establishing a spur line from No. 5 ward to Little Farm. Nothing of any moment was carried out the question being deferred until a later meeting.

Work was begun on Wednesday (9/3) of last week on the construction of a Railway from Papineauville to Nominque. It will crsoo the Canadian Northern at Arundle. Ottawa men are behind the scheme.

The C.P.R. are additionally strengthening the big bridge over the bay at the Chaudiere and the process of the work is decidedly interesting.

Several of the big stone piers of the bridge are being reinforced at the bottom with a huge mass of concrete, sunk from the river surface down eleven feet to the bed rock below. The concrete extends out about four feet from the pier proper and is thoroughly solid.

The bridge was built thirty-three years ago but it has been found lately that the constant action from the water, the jolts from logs and pieces of timber and other miscellaneous stuff swept along by the stream have had the effect of wearing away part of the masonry work below. It meant that if the process was allowed to go on the pier work might crumble away some day with the weight of a train overhead, and many lives would be lost.

More - sub marine diver inspector at work etc.

ROYAL PARTY LEAVE QUEBEC

C.P.R. Special Will be Held Over at Buckingham.

(From a Staff Correspondent) Quebec, Que., Oct. 13.

The C.P.R special conveying Their Royal Highnesses the Governor General and the Duchess to Ottawa pulled out of Quebec station after midnight. The party on board consists of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, Miss Pelly, lady-in-waiting; Lt.-Col. Lowther, military secretary; Lt. Hon. A. Ramsay, R.N., Capt. T. H. Rivers Bulkeley, Capt. Long, Capt. Worthington, Capt. Fremantle, Arthur Sladen, Mr. W. R. Baker, assistant to president of C.P.R., Mr. A. E. Robertson, secretary to Mr Baker. The party will remain at Buckingham Junction sufficient time to allow the special to reach Ottawa at 2.15

NEW STATION FOR HULL CITY

Talking of \$100,000 C. P. R. Depot.

New Station According to the Suggestion Might Be Placed In Eddy Park - Visitors Could Arrive on the Edge of Ottawa.

Hull may have a new hundred thousand dollar C. P. R. station at the corner of Bridge and Main streets, in the course of two years.

A resolution will be presented to the Hull Board of Trade tomorrow night by Ex-Alderman Joseph Gravelle, asking the board to approach the Hull city council with a view of allowing them to expropriate a strip of land on Main street, running from the corner of Bridge street to Brewery street, to build a large new station. A portion of property in question is now known as Eddy Park. The corporation of Hull owns the land in question.

The scheme seems quite feasible as the C. P. R. own the Hull Electric road, and have double tracks from this source right into the proposed new station.

It was intimated this morning that the pasengers would be brought into the new station, and transferred from there to Ottawa by the Hull electric cars. This would give visitors to the City of Ottawa an opportunity of arriving in the heart of ths capital.

The C.P.R. Company may build a handsome new station at Hull.

Since the wreck of the Pontiac train in Hull early last month, whereby five persons were killed and several injured, the C.P.R. has introduced anew block system between Hull and Ottawa, which, if it is strictly observed, will prevent a recurrence of the accident.

According to the rule sof the present system, a train cannot leave Hull or Ottawa before the conductor has obtained a staff which is locked and unlocked by an electric arrangement. Only by deliberately ignoring the system cpuld another collision of two trains occur between Hull and Ottawa. The Pontiac train still continues to back in from Hull to Broad Street station, but by the new arrangement there is little or no danger of an accident.

Killed Near Calumet

Calumet, Que., Nov 3. The body of Hermias Seguin, a river driver of Grenville, Que., was found on the C.P.R. tracks about a mile west of this village at an early hour this morning. Both legs were cut off and the body was otherwise mangled. It is not known which of the trains that passed during the night struck Seguin. Deceased was last seen in the village here Saturday night, and was partially inder the influence of liquor. He left at a late hour to walk along the track to the logger's camp at the Rouge river, where he had been employed, and it is though he may have went to sleep on the rails. Seguin was about twenty-five years of age and single. An inquest will be held.

Killed at Crossing

Lachute, Dec. 10. Gregory McQuat, aged 19, son of Mrs. W.D. McQuat was instantly killed, and W. McAllister aged 18, son of Postmaster Alex McAllister, of Brownsburg, was seriously injured when the Montreal train which left Ottawa at 6.20 p.m. on Saturday struck a buggy in which the two were driving, on a crossing in Lachute.

The two boys were driving, and, according to McAllister's story, neither heard nor saw the approaching train, when they attempted to cross the tracks.

The engine struck the buggy, killing the horse and McQuat, and hurling McAllister a distance of over 50 feet. When the train pulled up McQuat's body was found on the cowcatcher of the engine. Conductor Murphy in charge of the train, picked up McAllister, who was unconscious and the body of McQuat, and proceeded to Lachute Station.

An inquest was conducted on Sunday at the C.P.R. station at Lachute, when the jury, after hearing the evidence returned a verdict of accidentsl death, exonerating the C.P.R. from any blame for the accident.

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The C.P.R. authorities are contemplating raising the grades at four dangerous crossings which exist in Lachute, so that subways under the tracks will do away with the danger of further accidents.

RECOMMENDS STATION SITE

Hull Street Improvement Committee has Convenient Location in View.

That the ground known as Lake Floris be offered the C.P.R. as the site for the new Hull station is the suggestion of the Hull Street Improvement Committee. It is situated almost in the centre of the city and covers an area of about three quarters of a mile square. At present it is merely bog land and would require a lot of filling in. It is considered an admirable site, however, for a station as it is less than six hundred feet from the C. P. R. main line to Ottawa, and not far distant from the Hull Electric Railway line. The proposition will be placed before the Hull Board of Trade for consideration and will likely be brought up at the next council meeting

Box car derailed

Gatineau Train had to Back Into Central Station

A box car on the 8.45 Gatineau train was derailed in the west end of Hull yards, and the train was taken into the Central Station instead of the Union station. The train backed in on the C.P.R. tracks, running by Maniwaki Junction, along by the Hull Electric Railway line, striking the main line at the interprovincial bridge.

The train was not delayed.

Owing to a switch having been left open at the Calumet station one day last week, the express from Montreal took the wrong track to get into the station and came instead in contact with a freight train standing on the siding causing much damage to the engine and breaking several cars loaded with logs that were forming that train. Fortunately the express train was coming in slowly and that the engineer, who was snow blinded, noticed that his engine was on the wrong track, had time to put on the brake, which eased the collision to a great extent. The passengers received a severe shock but were not injured whatever.

A fine new wharf has recently been completed by the Canadian Pacific Railway at Calumet, replacing the old structure which was damaged by high water last year. Passengers for Hawkesbury, L'Original, Caledonia Springs etc., will appreciate this improvement.

Need to get date

Track cleared.

The C.P.R. North Shore route at Gatineau Point where the Montreal-Ottawa night train was held up last night for several hours owing to a derailment was cleared shortly after midnight.

Chelsea Road gates (I believe this is now Montcalm Street, as that is the only crossing that had gates in Hull that I know of) were smashed through along with the lanterns that sat on the gates. The story said that the gates were down for a light CPR engine "2,599". The motorist drove through the gates, and then extinguished his car's headlights and tail lights so the police could not track him down at night.

14 year old boy instantly killed

Four others injured when engines struck truck.

A dispatch from Ottawa, says Hector Ouelette, age 14 years, St. Jacques Street, Hull, was instantly killed, and four others were injured, two of them critically, at the St. Florent street railway level crossing in Hull, shortly after five o'clock Thursday, when a motor truck in which they were riding was struck by two C.P.R. engines traveling double headed towards Ottawa.

The engines struck the front part of the truck, turning it over and grinding the body and its wheels, so that the tender became derailed and tore up part of the right-of-way for a distance of over 50 feet before the engines came to a standstill. When the collision occurred the occupants of the truck were spilled onto the right-of-way, all clearing the engine with the exception of young Ouelette.

At the point where the accident occurred the view is somewhat obstructed by a short row of trees, and it is believed that the driver of the motor car did not hear the engine signal for the crossing. An inquest will be held.

The erection of a modern school, to cost in the neighbourhood of \$25,000; a new Canadian Pacific Railway station, and the construction of a mission church are some of the improvements which it is expected will shortly follow in the wake of the construction of the International Paper Company's big pulp and paper mill in West Templeton.

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The new C.P.R. station has already been located about a mile and a half from the old station called Talon, and it will be called the Gatineau station.

A small office is at present doing duty for a station and the Fraser brace Company has built a Y from its site, which joins the main line and is of standard gauge build, to its construction works. This will permit of the company shipping in its raw material from any point and routing its finished products to either Ottawa or Montreal.

Extensive alterations being made by the CPR to the Prince of Wales bridge will improve passenger service greatly at that point.

On August 1 the work of removing the old steel and replacing it with heavier steel was begun. It is now well under way, but so extensive is the work that it will not be completed before March 1927.

When the work is completed the bridge will be available to heavy traffic and the transfer engine will be withdrawn.

Despite the alterations, traffic is kept moving across the bridge with little delay.

The Dominion Bridge Company has the contract.

Reporter learned some railway ethics.

Reminiscence of 1897 C.P.R. wreck near Gatineau Point.

In the year 1897, in the fall, two C.P.R. freight trains collided a couple of miles east of Gatineau Point. The smash occurred just after daylight and as what was going to happen became evident in plenty of time, the engine crews were able to jump and save their lives. The engines were pretty badly telescoped and a number of freight cars smashed.

Like other bad news, news of the collision spread quickly through the city. A reporter on one of the city papers was one of the first from Ottawa to get on the scene.

He at once tackled one of the engineers. To every question he asked as to how and why there came the answer, "I don't know".

They knew nothing.

The reporter then tried the other engineer with the same set of results. He knew nothing. Next the reporter tackled the firemen. They also knew nothing.

Then the reporter went back to the first engineer. "Look here", he said, "I am representing the -- newspaper. When you refuse to talk to me, you refuse information to the --. So you had better cut out the fooling and tell me how the thing happened or I will have to report to the --."

"H.B." was there.

The engineer turned his back on the reporter. Then over his shoulder he shot out, "You blanked blank, don't you see H.B. Spencer over there. Do you want to get me fired."

"Oh", said the reporter, "I'm sorry I hadn't seen him." Then he hustled over to "H.B." and got his story - or at least such facts as the general superintendent wanted to give.

23/07/1928 *Chronicle-Telegraph Quebec Lachute*

Man and Wife Killed in Auto Train Crash

Ottawa July 23. Hilaire Trudel and his wife of Perkins Mills Quebec were almost instantly killed Saturday when a motor car in which they were returning from the Ottawa market was struck by a C.P. freight train at St. Rose de Lima. Mrs. Trudel was decapitated and her body carried for more than 100 yards under the wheels of the locomotive. Her husband is believed to have choked to death under the wreckage before he could be extricated.

09/01/1930 *Ottawa Citizen*

Lachute

Gatineau

Several persons injured when vehicle runs into C.P.R. freight at level crossing near Ottawa

Accident attributed to Ice Covering Highway

Serious tragedy was probably averted by matter of a few seconds only.

Seven persons had a narrow escape from serious injury last night when a Gatineau Bus Line bus ran into the side of a C.P.R. freight train at the level crossing at Gatineau Mills, Que. All occupants of the bus received some injuries, two of them being admitted to the Ottawa General Hospital, Water street.

Names of injured

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The accident occurred about 10 p.m. The bus with six passengers was on its way to Gatineau Mills. The freight, a regular switch train, shunting cars into the International Paper Company yards, and according to railway officials, the first car had just reached the crossing when the bus careened into it, striking the car about ten feet from the end. The driver was thrown against the windshield and the passengers thrown to the floor.

two ambulances called

All injured were given medical treatment by C.I.P. officials, and by Dr. A. Richard, 174, St. patrick street, who was taken to the scene by Whelan's ambulance which was called. Brady and Harris' ambulance was also called and both conveyed the injured to the hospital.

The freight train was in charge of Conductor S.A. Quinn, 123 Cambridge street. ice covered roads are blamed for the accident, as the wheels of the bus skidded when the brakes were applied

Only a matter of seconds averted an accident of much graver consequences. Had the bus got on to the crossing before the train had been struck broadside by the end of the train it would probably have been overturned and probably lives lost.

Fortunately both the bus and the train were travelling slowly at the time, and the locomotive and 12 box cars which it was hauling came to a stop immediately after the crash occurred. the front part of the bus was caught on the side of the box car causing the bus to be dragged across the road. When the train came to a stop, the front of the bus was down over the shoulder on the south side of the road.

Drivers contention

While railway men maintain that they were riding on the rear of the train backing up and had lighted lanterns, the bus driver, Lionel Bertrand, 115 Wellington street, Hull, said that he did not see anything of the train approaching the crossing nor did he hear any warning whistle.

Bertrand said that he left Ottawa shortly after nine o'clock en route to Ste Rose de Lima. He said that his bus was travelling slowly on account of the slippery conditions of the road. As he approached the railway crossing on the siding running from the C.P.R. Ottawa-Montreal North Shore line into the Canadian International Paper Co. plant he did not see a train approachig either way along the tracks.

Bertrand said he was slowing up for the crossing, and as he applied the brakes to bring the bus to a stop the end of a freight car appeared in front of him. The wheels of the bus skidded on the glare ice on the pavement, and he was unable to bring it to a stop before it crashed into the side of the first car just as it was partly over the crossing.

According to Conductor Steven A. Quinn, in charge of the train, a serious accident was averted by the quickness with which Engineer M. Hussey, 552 Lisgar street, brought the long train to a dead stop. As soon as the crash occurred Engineer Hussey applied the brakes and the train moved only a few feet, dragging the bus with it to the ditch at the edge of the road.

There were 12 freight cars, an engine and coal tender on the train. It was moving with the engine at the rear.

Besides the conductor and the engineer, other members of the train crew were Thompson Vickers, 135 Sherwood street, fireman; L. Quinn, 129 First avenue, and S. Gravelle, Montreal, brakemen. The accident, which occurred tn Montreal division territory, was reported to the Montreal superintendent by Conductor Quinn.

N. Jenkins, who was badly shaken up, was perhaps the most fortunate of the seven occupants of the bus. When the crash occurred he was hurled through the windshield of the bus and landed on the side of the road without suffering a cut from the broken glass.

All occupants of the bus were promptly removed to the Canadian International Paper Co. first aid station, where they were given first aid by John Lee.

timekeeper. A call was sent to the Ottawa General Hospital for a doctor and ambulances. Dr. Richard and the ambulances were rushed to the scene. After having their injuries dressed, most of the accident victims were able to go to their homes.

The bus itself, though considerably damaged, was not wrecked. The front part was twisted and broken, while the motor and steering gear were also damaged. It had to be towed to the Gatineau Bus Line garage by one of the company's big tractor snowplows.

14/08/1930 *Ottawa Citizen*

Lachute

Masson

Fire at Masson makes hundreds without homes.

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No. 2 fire station at Ottawa sent a pump and four men, headed by Captain Homer Langdon, and the apparatus arrived on a special Canadian Pacific train taking only 56 minutes to make the journey.

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A Shaggy Red Head Looked Over Coal Board of the Tender

One day back in the nineties when R.W. Botterell was engineer on the C.P.R. North Shore road, he and his fireman had a peculiar experience - one which they could never quite explain even to their own satisfaction. The name of the fireman is not given as he is still alive and working in Ottawa at a job other than railroading.

One night when the passenger train in the North Shore line was between Thurso and Masson stations, the fireman looked over the coal board of the tender. What caused him to look up he did not know. But when he looked, he saw a head looking at him over the coal board. The head was a shaggy red head, and the eyes were large and staring. The face was pasty white. the sight of this head only a few feet from him sent cold chills down the fireman's spine.

Went to Engineer

He dropped his shovel and sidled over to Engineer Botterell, nudged him and pointed to the coal board. Mr. Botterell looked and saw the red head.

"Go and grab him," the engineer said, "I can't leave here."

"Grab him yourself," the fireman retorted, "that's not a man. Tramps don't get into coal tenders. Anyway, what room would a tramp have there?"

Both looked again and the face still stared.

Disappeared

Suddenly it disappeared

The fireman went back to his shovelling, and it was not long before the train stopped at Masson.

Just as soon as the engine ground to a stop and before a tramp could have jumped, both fireman and engineer ran to the coal board of the tender. There was no sign of a man anywhere, nor could one be seen running in any direction. peculiar.

A number of tramps had been killed on the road from time to time. The fireman said that face did not seem human. How about it?

The Spare Fireman had Hard Initiation

Old time railway men sometimes used to have some trying experiences: long hours and hard runs. Take for example the experience of Engineer Phil Roy when he was a young fireman back in 1880. In the spring of 1880 Phil had joined the Q.M.O. & O. which then ran from Montreal to Hull (now C.P.R. North Shore).

When he entered the service of the Q.M.O. & O. he was only 16 and began as an iler. Good luck or good conduct of something presented him a chance to go firing as a spare.

His first experience as a spare fireman was severe. His first trip kept him two days and two nights without sleep and made him think that railroading was not such a nice job,

At Hull the engine in which young Roy was firing hitched onto a long train of square timber bound for Quebec. On account of its length the train ran slowly.

As the Q.M.O. & O. was short of freight cars and much square timber had to be moved, a hurried unloading of the timber took place at the Quebec docks and the freight train with its already tired crew, was without being given a chance to rest, hurried back to Hull. before Hull was reached 48 hours had elapsed and neither the engineer nor the young spare fireman had had any sleep and not a great deal to eat. The experience was one Phil Roy did not quickly forget.

12 Are Injured in Train Wreck Near Calumet

Three passenger Cars Roll Down 75-Foot Embankment

Victims Taken to Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury Jan. 8. Three passenger cars of a Canadian Pacific Railway train rolled down a 75-foot embankment between Calumet, Que., and Pointe aux Chenes this afternoon, causing minor injuries to 12 persons who were brought to the Hawkesbury hospitals for treatment.

Heading for Montreal, the Montebello train ran into a broken rail just before reaching a railway bridge over the Rouge River.

Cars are Wrecked

While the locomotive, tender and baggage car of the train remained on the track, the three passenger cars, containing 17 persons, rolled down the bank and were wrecked on trees and rocks. The cars were reported as having turned over two or three times in the fall.

All 17 passengers were shaken up and more or less bruised, 12 of them being brought here for observation.

Mother and Six Children

Six children of Mrs. Emile Gascon, 32, of Verdun, Montreal, and their mother, were among those brought to the hospital here. They were suffering from shock and general bruises but their condition was regarded as favorable. Others included Miss Denise Jette, 16, St. Hyacinthe, Que., broken arm and bruises; Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Thomas, Montreal, shock; Josephat Jette, St. Hyacinthe, Que., and Alphonse Gibeault, Hawkesbury.

Doctors stated all injuries were superficial and not more than five of the injured were expected to stay in the hospital over night.

Railway officials are investigating the derailment

Crashed Down Embankment

Passengers on the train declared it was incredible that no one was killed or critically injured, in view of the fact that three of the passenger cars crashed down the embankment and were battered by large boulders. Among the injured occupants of the cars was Mrs. Emile Gascon, of Montreal, who went through terrifying experiences in attempting to protect her six small children travelling with her.

One of the children was hurled through a window in the wreck but escaped serious injury, while another and two more sustained hurts requiring hospital attention. Two Hawkesbury men, Oscar and Wilfred Cayen, were also taken to hospital, one suffering from severely wrenched leg muscles, and the other from multiple cuts and bruises. The injured were conveyed from the scene of the accident to Hawkesbury hospital over the new Interprovincial bridge there in private motor-cars, while some of the more seriously hurt were transported to Calumet station. Repairs to the line were speedily made by wrecking crews.

Citizen had the same wording as the Journal with the following addition:

Railway's Statement

Montreal Jan 8.

Five passengers were taken to Hawkesbury, Ont., hospital today with minor injuries received when three coaches of a Canadian Pacific Railway train running between Ottawa and Montreal were derailed three miles west of Calumet, Que., the railway announced.

The passengers, the injuries of none of whom were serious were Emile Gascon, Verdun, Que., Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Thomas, Montreal; Mrs. Denise Jette, St. Hyacinthe, Que., and Miss Claire Huneault, Calumet, Que.

Other passengers suffered only superficial bruises and scratches the announcement stated.

The accident occurred at 4.15 this afternoon and was caused by a broken rail.

Remarkable Escape

That it is most remarkable no one was seriously injured or killed in the accident. The Citizen learned in inquiries over long distance telephone last night.

Informants told the reporter that the three passenger cars were almost demolished as they rolled down the embankment, crashing over large boulders, stumps and trees before they came to a stop at the bottom of the embankment.

Not From Ottawa

First reports, mostly rumors, to reach the city had the list of injured as high as 21 and it was feared that many of those might be Ottawans. Local C.P.R. officials however, announced that the train that figured in the accident was not from Ottawa but ran daily from Montebello and Montreal.

Passengers Interviewed

Interviewed in hospitals at Hawkesbury, injured passengers related their experiences. They said that their first intimation of the accident was when they noticed the cars jolting and rocking slightly before they toppled down the embankment. One mother, Mrs. Emile Gascon of Montreal, was accompanied by her six small children and bravely endeavored to see to the safety of all of them before herself.

It was reported that one of the younger children, a mere infant, was hurled through one of the broken windows as the car rolled down the embankment, and escaped serious injury. Two of the six children suffered minor injuries and are with their mother in a Hawkesbury hospital. Fears were expressed that Mrs. Gascon may be suffering from a fractured hip, and an X-ray examination was made to ascertain the extent of her injuries.

Hawkesbury Men Hurt

Two young men from Hawkesbury, Oscar and Wilfred Cayen, are among the injured. The muscles of one of the legs of one of these men were torn, and the other man suffered bruises and lacerations.

Most of the accident victims were conveyed across the Ottawa river over the new bridge from the scene of the wreck to Hawkesbury hospitals in private motorcars, and the most seriously hurt were moved to Calumet station after receiving first aid and were transported to Hawkesbury in Berthiaume's ambulance.

Repairs quickly made

No serious delay in traffic apart from the train figuring in the derailment resulted from the accident. The train from Montreal to Ottawa over the North Shore line arrived in the city last night only half an hour late, repairs to the broken rails having been quickly made.

10/07/1936

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Smiths Falls

Albert Maynes was fireman on first transcontinental train

Albert Maynes, formerly of Smiths Falls, now retired, was outstanding among the C.P.R. veterans, in the recent golden jubilee celebration of the inauguration of transcontinental railway service in Canada. Mr. Maynes, now residing in Toronto, was, for about a quarter of a century, one of the best known C.P.R.

locomotive engineers on the Smiths Falls division.

He had the honor of being on of the two men who piloted the engine that hauled the first through C.P.R. train out of Montreal destined for Fort Moody, then the Pacific coast terminal. He was chosen locomotive fireman for that occasion by the stalwart group who drove in the last spike. The engineer on the first train was Aaron Barr. Mr. Maynes has great recollections of that first trip. He said great crowds gathered about the old Place Viger station and huge bonfires were lighted along the way.

Mr. Maynes, who is the son of an Irish infantry captain, started as a machinist for the old Southern Railway in Vermont and later became a humble engine-wiper in the Hochelaga shops at Montreal. He afterwards became locomotive engineer in Smiths Falls, divisional master mechanic, rule instructor and mechanical examiner. He has travelled with royalty and has been a friend of dukes and princes and statesmen.

11/12/1942

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Hull

Driver loses life, companion injured in crossing crash.

Injured late yesterday afternoon when the car he was driving was struck by a train on an Aylmer road level crossing, Ernest Dack, 43 years of age, of Easton's Corners, died shortly after one o'clock this morning in the Sacred Heart hospital, Hull.

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Dack was one of two men injured when their car was struck by a slow-moving locomotive at a C.P.R. level crossing almost in front of the De Salaberry Armories in Hull at 5.15 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Dack was driving at the time.

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According to the Hull police report, the car driven by Dack was proceeding west on the Aylmer road at a moderate rate of speed. Another car was stopped at the railway crossing and having failed to notice the wig-wag signal warning of the approach of a train Dack apparently thought that the parked car was stalled on the road. He passed it and as his car got on the tracks it was struck by the tender of the locomotive which was backing in a northerly direction.

The automobile was pushed a=sideways a distance of about ten feet before the locomotive came to a stop. It was badly wrecked, and it was with difficulty that the men were extricated from the debris. The train crew rushed to the men's aid and had them removed to the hospital in Gauthoer's ambulance.

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01/07/1947

Ottawa Journal

Lachute

Thurso

Armed Thug Robs Thurso Station Agent

Threatening the CPR station station agent at Thurso, Que., with "Don't move or I'll drill you", an armed bandit swept \$150 in bills into his pockets and made a getaway in a dark blue sedan at 5.05 p.m., Monday.

In his haste the bandit overlooked \$800 lying in full view on a shelf of an open safe in the station office.

Several persons living near the Thurso station looked on idly as the dark blue sedan raced away. It was only after the station agent Andre Lefebvre, and his assistant ran from the office any importance was attached to the car.

Mr. Lefebvre relieving as agent, told Detective Robert Gilbert Hull Detachment Quebec Provincial Police he and his assisant Rudolphe Pelletier, were working behind the wicket when footsteps were heard approaching. Both men were busy at their desks and their backs were to the wicket.

Mr. Lefebvre wheeled around and saw a revolver thrust through the wicket.

"I want the money", the robber demanded.

Mr. Lefebvre took "about \$150" from the till and thrust it at the man. He reached out and pulled it into the pocket of his coat

"Don't move for a full minute after I leave" he directed, and then made a break for a door.

Mr. Lefebvre and Mr. Pelletier waited until they heard a car pull away from the station and then ran out to give the alarm.

Mr. Lefebvre told police he had seen the bandit walking past the wicket earlier in the day.

Quebec Provincial Police from Hull and Montreal were called in to assist CPR investigators in the case. All police departments have been notified of the robbery. Assisting Detective Gilbert with the investigation are Constables R. Bastlen, M. Dusseault . and Howard Jones.

Thurso to Have New Station

Thurso June 10. Thurso will soon have a new station to replace the one destroyed by fire last December 23. Plans have already been approved by the local council, and building will be started by the Canadian Pacific Railway at the end of the month.

Of attractive brick design, the station will contain every possible comfort. One section will be of two storeys with offices on the lower floor and the station master's quarters on the upper. The other section, with a novel roof design, will house the waiting rooms and the baggage and express accommodation.

To avoid the blocking of Galipeau street by trains standing in the station, the new building will be 80 feet away from the former location.

This will not be the first time that Thurso's station has been moved. In 1927, the one recently destroyed by fire, was shifted and renovated.

17/02/1951 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute*

None hurt in crash of truck train.

Ernest Bastien, 35, of 154 Hinchey Avenue, narrowly escaped injury yesterday afternoon when his loaded fuel-oil truck with its inflammable cargo skidded into the side of a moving passenger train at a Hull crossing.

The CPR Montclair Street crossing was the scene of the truck-train crash, when the truck plowed into one of the rear coaches of CPR Ottawa-Maniwaki passenger train, locomotive No.2927, that had just pulled out of Beemer station at 4.45 p.m.

Although the cab of the heavy tanker tractor owned by Hall Fuels, 339 Preston Street, was totally wrecked, the efforts of the driver in pulling the truck sideways was credited with saving the 1,200 gallon oil tank from damage.

None of the oil escaped and there was little danger of fire or explosion following the crash.

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Although the railway coaches were slightly damaged as a result of the accident, officials reported last night that none of the passengers were injured.

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Engineer William R. Creighton, of 125 Bayswater Avenue and Fireman George Tapp, of 158 Beach Street were in charge of the locomotive.

03/03/1958 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute**Masson*

Five teenagers injured as car smashes train.

A 19-year-old Ottawa youth was seriously injured when a car carrying five teen-age people from Ottawa slammed into a train at Masson shortly after midnight Saturday (1 March)

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Crew of CPR engine No. 2609 was engineer L. Hamel, 1012 Church Street, St. Martin, Que.: fireman Gerard Vachon, 202 Carruthers Avenue, Ottawa and conductor G.O. Racicot, 966 Champaigna Street, St. Vincent de Paul, Que.

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From Bruce Chapman. Got out the oldest Ottawa West shop dispatch book, which started April 19th, 1958, and 2609 is nowhere to be seen. This March 3rd, 1958, may have been its swan song for Ottawa.

03/04/1958 *Ottawa Journal**Lachute**Wamo*

CPR MaiiUine Blocked Overnight At Hull

Two cars of a long freight train overturned, spilling iron ore along the right-of-way in a derailment on the CPR main line near the Quebec entrance to the Prince of Wales Bridge at 8.45 o'clock last night The train was turning on to the main line from the Pontiac.

The CPR said three trains, the Brockville-Ottawa, the transcontinental and the Montreal-Sudbury, were re-routed but the line was cleared for eastbound transcontinental traffic this morning.

No one was injured In the derailment which still is being probed by CPR investigators.

06/07/1959 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute*

Boy injured in fall off trestle.

A Hull boy is in serious condition after falling 280 feet onto a railway line Sunday afternoon.

Michael Ross, 10, of 160 Dumas Street, Hull was riding his bicycle across the CPR trestle near the Canada Cement Company plant when he fell off the bike, over the side of the trestle and landed on the railway line to Maniwaki that runs beneath the trestle.

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18/03/1961 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute**Gatineau*

Includes a picture of the wreck with CPR Dayliner #9104.

2 killed in train-car collision.

A level crossing crash near gatineau took the lives of twomen at 1.15 p.m. yesterday.

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-- a sedan owned and driven by Orville Prudhomme was struck by a CPR Montreal - Ottawa train a few seconds after the motor vehicle turned off the highway at the Paymenr Road crossing.

There is a clear view for more than a mile both up and down the railway right-of-way at that point and eye witnesses and members of the train crew were unable to offer a guess as to how the car's occupants failed to notice the fast-moving dayliner. The crossing is unprotected by signals, and has been the scene of previous similar mishaps.

The auto, wedged into the front of the diesel locomotive was carried for more than a half-mile west of the crossing.

the body of Orville Prudhomme was hurled out on to the right-of-way some 300 feet from the point of impact, and the body of Mr. McGovern was jammed into the wreckage of the car's front seat. The vehicle was demolished.

The train was in charge of Conductor Stanislas Gravelle, 6226 Clarke Street, Montreal, and the engineer was Harry Day, 80, of 26 St. Catharine Street,

Longueuil. The engineer said he saw the car just as it moved onto the tracks directly into the path of his locomotive. He applied the emergency brakes, but it was impossible to halt the train.

18/03/1961

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Gatineau

A level crossing crash near Gatineau took the lives of two men at 1.15 p.m. yesterday, bringing the 24 -hour total of violent deaths in the Hull area to four. There have been 44 deaths in the Ottawa -Hull district since January 1.

The Dead

Thomas McGovern, 56, of 38 Cypress Street, Gatineau, an employe of the Canadian International Paper Company.

Orville Prudhomme, 27, of R.R. 1, Gatineau, a farm hand on the farm of James Horan at Quinville.

When their car went out of control on the Aylmer Road near Connaught Park Raceway at 2 a.m. Friday, two Ottawa men were killed instantly.

Struck By Train

In the Gatineau tragedy, a sedan owned and driven by Orville Prudhomme twas struck by a CPR Montreal -Ottawa train a few seconds after the motor vehicle turned off the highway at the Payment Road crossing.

There is a clear view for more than a mile both up and down the railway right-of-way at that point, and eye-witnesses and members of the train crew were unable to offer a guess as to how the car's occupants failed to notice the fast-moving dayliner. The crossing is unprotected by signals, and has been the scene of previous similar mishaps.

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Raoul Touchette, of 124 Vercheres Street, Gatineau, and Mrs. Ian McLean, of The Seignior Club, Montebello, were passing in cars at the time, and both saw the Prudhomme auto as it turned north from Highway No. 8.

They said the car continued onto the crossing without stowing, its occupants apparently unaware of the approaching train.

Coroner Dr. Jean Lorrain, of Ste. Rose de Lima, opened, an inquest, but adjourned the hearing pending completion of the police investigation.

19/07/1962

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

No inquest in triple fatality.

No inquest will be held into the deaths of a Rouyn couple and their son killed Wednesday when their automobile was struck by a freight train near laisance, Que.

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03/10/1962

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Hull

Rail car runs over obstruction

Someone threw the cross arm of a telephone pole across the tracks near the Hull station last night. One passenger dayliner bumped over it, but no damage resulted.

CPR officials said, however, that had the train been moving in excess of 30 miles an hour, there could have been serious consequences.

The obstruction was noticed by engineer Norman Smith of Montreal, as his one-coach train ground to a halt about 1,000 feet north of the Beemer station, near the Hull arena. The Montreal-Ottawa train normally stops at this point until an automatic switch is opened to bring it into the station.

20/08/1963

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Hull

BIG TRAIN, LITTLE CAR; TRAIN WINS

Might is right it seems, at least when it comes to a train's right of way.

There were no "no parking" signs along the south side of Brunet Street in Hull, where a Canadian Pacific Railway track runs parallel to the roadway, so Pierre Paquin of 96 Dollard St., Hull, sidled up Monday evening with his expensive imported car.

A few minutes later, while watching a ball game a short distance away in Moussette Park, Mr. Paquin turned when he heard the grate of steel against steel and saw a freight train engine gouging the side of his car. Damage amounted to about \$1,000.

14/09/1963

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Hull

Boy, 8, tumbles beneath train.

Quick action by a trainman Friday afternoon saved the life of an eight-year-old boy who had been thrown beneath a moving passenger train.

Gilles Roy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rene Roy of 52 St. Hyacinthe St., Hull was walking alongside the railway tracks just east of the Hull station when the tricycle he was pulling caught on one of the coaches of a passing train.

It flung him beneath a parlor car.

Allen Bernaby had been watching the boy through an open baggage car door. When he saw him disappear under the car he pulled the emergency cord.

Quick stop

The train, an Ottawa-Toronto pool train, stopped in less than a car length.

Andre Gervais, a station yardman, said the boy was "frozen stiff" when he helped lift him from under the car.

Gilles was released from the Sacred Heart Hospital last night. Apart from a good scare, he suffered only minor scratches and bruises.

20/01/1964

Ottawa Citizen

Lachute

Templeton

Auto skids into train, driver dead

Pierre Lafleche, 13. of 4 Seventh Ave., Ste. Rose de Lima, Que., was instantly killed Saturday afternoon when his car was struck by an Ottawa-Montreal passenger train, near Templeton.

The accident occurred at the Templeton-Ste. Rose de Lima railway crossing. The youth, alone in his car, came down the inclined roadway on the south side of the railway crossing shortly after 2 p.m. He was unable to stop because of extremely icy road conditions.

The entire front end of the car was destroyed by the impact with the train engine.

Dr. Jean Lorrain, district coroner, viewed the body shortly after it was removed from the car wreckage. Templeton Police Chief Rhea) Sanscartier investigated.

NCC plans Hull railway station

The National Capital Commission is to build a \$90,000 Hull railway station in the near future.

"Plans are now being prepared in Montreal," Maurice Landry, director of information for the NCC, said this morning.

Construction of the new station will eliminate a number of level crossings in Hull and bring about demolition of the Beamer Station.

The new station will be located on the west side of Montcalm Street and south of Cremazie Street. It is part of the long-range NCC plan announced a number of years ago.

With the abandonment of the Union Station in Ottawa, trains no longer will be using the Interprovincial Bridge. The tracks will be torn up immediately.

Although plans have not been completed for use of the railway portion of the bridge, the original proposal was to use it for a third lane of traffic between Ottawa and Hull. In the morning, two lanes would be directed to Ottawa, and in the evening two toward Hull.

Experts believe the Interprovincial Bridge is still in good shape, with at least 10 years of life left in it. At least three plans have been put forward for reconstruction of the bridge and its approaches on both sides of the river.

If the railway line under the plaza leading to the bridge is to be used for traffic, considerable enlarging of the railway tunnel can be expected.

Cost increased

Although a figure of \$1,000,000 was put forward some time ago as the total cost of changes, it is believed this amount has gone up considerable since then.

Closing of the Union Station means the only rail access from Ottawa to Hull is on the Prince of Wales Bridge at Lemieux Island.

NCC officials said when the new Hull station is built, it will be turned over the Canadian Pacific Railway for operational purposes.

14/08/1967 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute*

Train slices car, four die.

Four people, three of them children, were killed when a CPR dayliner express from Montreal demolished their car at a level crossing between Gatineau Point and Gatineau shortly after 9 p.m. yesterday.

Stalled on tracks

Arthur Chartrand, 34 year-old husband and father of the victims, and his father, Arthur Chartrand, Sr., jumped from the 1956 model convertible when it stalled on the tracks in the path of the onrushing train.

The two men made frantic efforts to push the car to safety. They jumped clear only seconds before the impact.

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31/08/1968 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute*

Girl rescued after fall into deep railway cut.

Ottawa police and fire departments, Exclusive Ambulance and a Canadian Pacific Railway train crew combined to rescue an 11-year-old girl who fell into a 40-foot deep railway cut Friday.

Francis Tanner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tanner, of 1046 Fisher Ave., is in good condition in Civic Hospital with a fractured leg and cuts to her body. She and two friends, Douglas Ward, 13, son of James W. Ward, of 1070 Bakervale Dr., and Peter Charles, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. H. Charles, of 1052 Fisher Ave., were playing on the right of way near the Prince of Wales Bridge across the Ottawa River about 5 p.m.

The trio started to climb down into the cut.

When they were about half-way down, the young girl lost her grip on the rock wall and fell down beside the railway tracks.

Her friends sought help and four police officers, an ambulance and two fire department ladder trucks sped to the scene.

As plans were being made to lift the girl out of the cut, a train arrived. The girl was put on it and carried out to Carleton University where the tracks reach surface level.

There she was transferred to the ambulance and taken to Civic Hospital.

14/01/1969 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute**Hull*

Hull station ready Hull's new railway station off Montcalm Street is to go into full operation within a few days.

The \$200,000 station was built by the National Capital Commission for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

14/01/1969 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute**Hull*

Hull station ready

Hull's new railway station off Montcalm Street is to go into full operation within a few days.

The \$200,000 station was built by the National Capital Commission for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

17/02/1972 *Ottawa Journal**Lachute**Lachute*

TRAIN DERAILMENT

LACHUTE .Que. (CP) Ten cars of a CP Rail freight train were wrecked in a derailment Wednesday on the Montreal-Ottawa line about 10 miles west of here. No injuries were reported. The derailment damaged about 1,000 feet of track, a Lachute fireman said.

17/02/1972 *Ottawa Journal**Lachute*

Train Derailment

Lachute, Que., ten cars of a CP Rail freight train were wrecked in a derailment Wednesday on the Montreal - Ottawa line about ten miles west of here. No injuries were reported. The derailment damaged about 1,000 feet of track, a Lachute fireman said.

Collision at the Crossing

By Patricia Cote Citizen staff writer

CALUMET, Que. Kenneth McHardy heard the awful smash of metal into metal and rushed outside to see what had happened.

A five-ton fruit truck had crashed into the rear half of a CP Rail passenger dayliner bound for Montreal.

"Everything went up in the air like an explosion. It was about 10 or 15 feet high."

Mr. McHardy said it was the truck that caught fire. The dayliner was travelling at such a rapid speed that it didn't stop until half-a-mile down the track.

Mr. McHardy didn't realize until later that two people on the train were killed and 26 others injured as a result of the crash, which occurred about 9:15 a.m. on Highway 8 near this West Quebec town.

Mr. McHardy owns a service station about 40 yards from the railway crossing. He lives in a house beside the station. He was the first person to reach the scene of the accident.

Man screaming

"I ran to get my fire extinguisher it's one of those big ones because the truck was on fire. The flames were going up around the guy in the truck. The guy was screaming."

The "guy in the truck" was 24-year-old Reginald St.-Gelais of Gatineau, who was sitting in the passenger side of the truck. The driver of the truck, Michel Emery, 23, of Gatineau, was thrown clear upon impact. He had minor injuries.

"I put out the flames and then I ran back and called the police and the ambulance," Mr. McHardy recalled.

Mr. McHardy said that while he and Mr. Emery waited for the ambulance and police, a lumber truck pulled up to the scene. The unidentified driver got out and attached a chain to the crumpled cab which had been flattened against the fruit truck, pinning Mr. St.-Gelais inside. With the chain, he pulled the cab into some semblance of shape, enabling the rescuers to free the trapped man. However, Mr. St.-Ge-ais, who was acting as second driver for Mr. Emery, later was pronounced dead.

Mr. McHardy said he didn't know whether the lights and the bells at the crossing were working.

Passengers appear

But his wife said she was "pretty sure the bells were ringing. I didn't see the lights."

The McHardys' first sight of the train passengers was several people walking up the tracks through the wet, muddy fields, carrying suitcases.

Helen McHardy, the McHardys' 19-year-old daughter, said many of the passengers came into the service station to use the telephone, as did Michel Emery, driver of the truck. "His nose was all bleeding and his sweater was splattered with blood," said Helen.

She said the passengers were "nervous but not hysterical." Some had minor cuts.

Although the train stops at Calumet, it normally accelerates quickly upon leaving the station, Helen said.

"The people on the train said it was going fast enough. They thought the truck's brakes must have failed," she said.

Splinters in glass

Michel Emery, the driver, has his own fruit and vegetable business in Gatineau. He was driving a truckload of fruit and vegetables from Montreal to Gatineau, a journey he makes two or three times a week.

Several hours after the accident, Michel was standing beside the train talking to reporters. The crash damaged the undercarriage of the train at the right side near the rear, shattered four windows, and left shards of wood embedded in the cracked glass.

Mr. McHardy said he thought there was a rack with crates of fruit on top of the truck, and that upon impact the crates went crashing through the train windows.

Mr. Emery told reporters that the lights and bells which mark the crossing were not operating when he approached, travelling at about 50 m.p.h.

If you are approaching the crossing coming from Montreal, there is a windbreak of trees 50 yards before the crossing. The windbreak makes it difficult to see an approaching train.

Mr. Emery said as soon as he was able to see the train he braked and tried to avoid hitting the train by going off the road on the left side, but he didn't get off in time.

Mr. Emery said he was thrown from the truck, got back on his feet and tried to help his partner, Mr. St.-Gelais.

Mrs. McHardy said a freight train had gone through earlier in the morning, and she heard the bells.

Reporters found Canadian Pacific workmen testing the warning signals at the crossing about four hours after the accident, and both the lights and the signals were functioning normally.

CALUMET, Que. CP Rail officials have denied a truck driver's claim that warning signals weren't working when his truck hit a train at a Highway 8 crossing near here Friday, killing three people.

Warning bells and lights were tested right after the crash and found to be functioning properly, said a CP spokesman in Montreal. "It (the crossing) was well-protected."

Michel Emery, 23, of Gatineau, whose fruit truck plowed into the Ottawa-Montreal dayliner about 9:15 a.m., told reporters later that neither lights nor bells were working.

Three persons were killed: Reginald St.-Gelais, 24, of 372 Cadieux St., Gatineau, Emery's passenger and relief driver; and train passengers Bernice Dougherty, 49, of Great Falls, Mont., and Mrs. Jeanne Marie Brunelle, 58, of 8 Verdon St., Ste.-Therese.

More than 20 of the dayliner's 50 passengers were injured, but police said none of the injuries was serious.

Among those suffering shock or minor and bruises and cuts were Eleanor Pelletier, 748 Borthwick Ave., Ottawa; Pauline Bourgeon, 248 Ethel St., Van-ier; and Phyllis, Rodney and Orin Stanley, all of 13 Wychwood Dr., Aylmer.

Sees wife die

Norbert J. Dougherty, husband of Bernice Dougherty, said he sat in the dayliner helplessly and watched his wife die.

"She was sitting on the side of the train where the train struck. Suddenly she was pitched into the aisle ... I thought she was just knocked out."

"I felt for her pulse and it wasn't there and then I knew she was gone," he said.

Mr. Dougherty and a daughter, Shawn, suffered only shock.

The collision demolished the cab of the truck, but the dayliner stayed on the tracks and came to a stop about half-a-mile from the crossing.

Help

Police said a police cruiser, an ambulance, and finally a tow truck ail became stuck in wet fields as they tried to reach the train.

The ambulances nine arrived to carry injured to hospitals in Lachute and Hawkesbury had to halt 1,000 feet from the train and police and volunteers carried the dead and hurt in stretchers across the soggy terrain.

The accident is being investigated by Quebec provincial police, a 10-man team from Canadian Pacific, and the Canadian Transport Commission.

Police said Coroner Jean Morin of Lachute plans to hold an inquest, but no date has been set.

Calumet is about 55 miles east of Ottawa.

Nobody screamed as truck loomed

MONTREAL (Staff-CP) "It was terrible," 78-year-old Lionel Chevrier recalled in a quiet but excited voice.

"There was broken glass all over the place. It showered all over my wife and me and a great big piece of glass just missed by head."

Mr. Chevrier, a retired farmer bound for Newfoundland to visit relatives when the dayliner was struck by a vegetable truck at a highway 8 level crossing Friday, said he watched the truck approaching the train.

The next thing he remembered clearly was a woman lying in a pool of blood on the railcar floor beside him.

"She died right there on the floor," he said.

Mrs. Chevrier, 76, refusing a doctor's help as she was helped from a special train that brought survivors here, said:

Railmen praised

"We could see a big truck coming into the side of the car. But the funny thing was nobody screamed.

"A woman fell on the floor in the back of us and bled to death." Mrs. Chevrier told the doctor who asked if she felt alright:

"I've got a big crack on the head but that's okay. I feel more shocked than anything else."

Mrs. Aldege Dumoulin of Calumet, a 74-year-old grandmother, had just boarded the dayliner when the accident occurred.

"I tell you, we had two good drivers," she said.

The impact shook the train and she was surprised it didn't leave the tracks. (Engineer George Franklin of Ottawa and conductor Rene Labelle of Montreal were not injured.)

"We got some glass in our hair," she said. "We were shook up, but it didn't hurt us at all."

Mrs. Dumoulin and her daughter, Mrs. Allan Sanderson of Moncton and Mrs. Sanderson's 10-year-old son Bill, were sitting at the front of the dayliner. The truck hit towards the rear and on the opposite side.

"Nobody yelled, nobody screamed or cried or anything," she recalled. "We kept calm."

"We didn't see it coming. We didn't know what was happening until everything was all over."

30/08/1972 Ottawa Citizen Lachute Calumet

Lachute. A young garden product salesman still maintains he saw no warning lights before his truck crashed into the side of a Montreal-bound passenger train at Calumet on Aug. 11

Testifying at a Canadian Transport Commission inquiry here Tuesday, Michael Emery, 23, of Gatineau repeated the story he told immediately after the accident which claimed three lives and injured 26.

Mr. Emery didn't go as far as to say the flashing signals weren't working. He claimed he "didn't see them working." He stated positively the bells which normally ring as the lights flash weren't working before the collision occurred.

However, several witnesses called during the inquiry - which ended late yesterday afternoon - contradicted Mr. Emery's evidence.

Ken Hotchkiss, a Canadian International Paper Company purchasing agent, who travels Highway 8 over the level crossing every morning about the same time, said both lights and bells were working normally when he crossed as the CP Rail dayliner approached.

He said he glanced in his rear view mirror as he crossed and saw no sign of the Emery truck. Commission Counsel J.M. Fortier deduced the accident happened seconds after Mr. Hotchkiss left the scene.

Serge Roy, 16, a student living near the level crossing, said he was in his yard shortly after 9 a.m. and heard the bells on the signal posts ringing.

He added, because of his position, he couldn't see if the lights were flashing. He said he saw the Emery truck coming along highway 8, lost it from view behind some bushes, then saw it collide with the dayliner.

A passenger on the train, Laura Ratchky of Windsor, said she was looking out of the window near the Calumet crossing and saw the warning lights flashing.

Gilbert Blakeney, a CTC signalling engineer, said signals were functioning normally when tested shortly after the accident.

The inquiry, chaired by Louis Talbot, was also greatly concerned at the speed the dayliner was travelling as it came through the crossing.

E.J. Hase, director of operations for the CTC, said a statutory speed limit of 24 m.p.h. at all level crossings where an accident has occurred. He said the limit can only be lifted by the commission.

Although accidents had occurred at the Calumet crossing in the past, there was no speed limit at the time of the crash because previous statutory limits had been lifted. He added the 25 m.p.h. limit had been re-imposed since the Aug. 11 accident.

Veteran CPR engineer George Frankland of Ottawa said he put the throttle of his engine in the maximum position as he pulled out of Calumet station where he'd stopped to pick up two passengers.

Mr. Frankland emphasized when the throttle was placed in maximum the train didn't immediately reach top speed.

"The engine accelerates on its own and takes about a mile to reach its top speed of 90 m.p.h." he said. "We were doing about 45 m.p.h. When we went through the crossing, which is about half a mile from the station."

An unexpected discovery

A commotion stirred the Lachute Masonic Hall, where the inquiry was held, when, under cross-examination by the lawyer representing Mr. Emery, Mr. Frankland revealed the train's speedometer wasn't working the day in question.

He said he wasn't aware of the problem until after he left the Ottawa Station, and insisted he was experienced enough to judge how fast he was going without the instrument.

(Mr. Hase testified that during tests made by the commission after the accident an engine identical to the one Mr. Frankland was operating was accelerated out of Calumet under the same circumstances and reached a speed of 44 m.p.h. at the crossing).

Mr. Frankland said the dayliner's speed is only restricted on curves - 60 m.p.h. - apart from crossings carrying statutory limits.

He said the train's headlamp was on as it approached the crossing and he gave the warning whistle and activated the bell as usual. He said it was a "fine, clear day."

The dayliner was on the crossing when Mr. Frankland first noticed the Emery truck.

He said his first impulse was to pull the emergency brake. Then he decided the best thing to do was get through the crossing and hopefully avoid the truck.

Mr. Emery said he didn't know the train was approaching until he saw it emerge from behind a line of trees when he was about 125 feet away. He said his radio was off and he couldn't remember whether his windows were raised or not.

He said he applied the brakes and swerved but was too close to avoid impact. He said he approached the crossing at a normal rate of speed.

Killed in the accident on the Ottawa-Montreal line were Bernice Doherty, 49, of Great Falls, Mont., Jeanne Marie Brunelle, of Ste. Therese, Que., both passengers in a CP Rail diesel car and Reginald St-Gelais, 24, of Gatineau, a passenger in the truck. None of the injured was seriously hurt.

05/12/1972 Ottawa Citizen Lachute Calumet

Evidence indicated signals were working

The Canadian Transport Commission says evidence indicates a truck-train collision at a railway level crossing near Calumet, Que., Aug. 11 was not caused by failure of the automatic signal system.

Three persons died and 22 were injured when a truck and a CP Rail dayliner coach collided at the crossing.

The commission said in a report released Monday that it has no authority to look at civil and criminal aspects of the case.

But evidence indicated the signal system was functioning properly and the train was also operating well except for the speed indicator. The truck had struck the train.

The transport commission report said that the only witness to say that the signals were not operating was the driver of the truck, Michel Emery, 23, of Gatineau. But other witnesses watching from nearby homes or driving over the crossing just before the accident saw the signal lights flashing and heard the bell ringing, the report said.

The signal system was later found to be in working order by commission inspectors, the commission said.

The train braking system was tested and found to be operating properly on the day the accident happened, the report said.

Passengers on the train also heard the train bell ringing, the commission said.

Train, transport truck collide

Several fuel tanker cars were ablaze late this morning after a westbound CP Rail freight train smashed into a transport truck at a crossing between Papineauville and Montebello, about 30 miles east of Hull.

Railway officials said they had little information on the derailment, and they did not know whether there had been injuries or deaths.

The tanker cars were immediately behind the engines of the freight train and apparently caught fire when they jumped off the tracks after the collision.

12/04/1973 *Ottawa Journal**Lachute**Papineauville*

'Brakes failed' driver

PAPINEAUVILLE (Staff) -Brake -Brake failure. That's the reason given by the 17-year-old driver of a tractor-trailer who leaped from the cab just before it smashed into the third engine of a 54-car freight train on a Highway .8 crossing just east of here. While the front end of the truck disintegrated on impact, hurling the engine more than 100 feet down the tracks, driver Leo Boutet of St. Basil, near Montreal, escaped injury.

Sgt. Andre Leduc of the Papineauville QPF detachment, said the young driver told him that he saw the train coming but that when he tried to stop, he found that he had no brakes. He barely had time to jump from the cab of the truck before it crashed into the heavy engine.

The crash knocked one of the three engines pulling the train off the track, into the nearby home of Normand Allard. More than a dozen cars, including including nine oil-tanker cars and a car loaded with liquified chlorine, were hurled about like a child's toys. Three of the 17,000 gallon tankers ruptured, sending their flaming contents spewing over the surrounding area, including the home of Mr. Allard, which was destroyed in the blaze.

About two acres of land immediately east of the crash site was turned into a blackened desert as the burning oil spread.

More than 80 firemen from departments in Gatineau, Thurso, Buckingham, Montebello, St Andrelinand Papineauville converged on the scene.

Their major concern was that the tanker loaded with 20,000 gallons of chlorine might rupture and spread deadly gas throughout the area. Pumping water from a nearby creek, the firemen worked feverishly for more than four hours, pouring water on the chlorine tanker to keep its temperature below the point where the gas would have expanded and burst the safety valve on the car.

Other firemen fought the blaze that ripped through the tangled wreckage. It was brought under control shortly after 1 p.m.

Police had evacuated more than 100 families living within a one mile radius of the crash scene.

"The tanker is specially designed to withstand the stress of a derailment," said an official of Standard Chemical Ltd., the owner. "There wasn't even a rivet blown on the thing," he said. Ross Maitland, Canadian Transport Commission chemical engineer on the site to advise in the handling of the dangerous gas, said "the liquified chlorine turns to yellowish green colored fumes when exposed to air. It mixes readily with water and forms hydrochloric acid," he said. "If breathed into the lungs, death is almost instantaneous," he said.

The only injuries were to the trainman in the second engine, Claude Baril; who suffered a broken wrist and train engineer Claude Beris, who suffered cuts to his face and one arm.

Shortly after 2 p.m., police began to allow the families to return to their homes. But it was after 4 p.m. before Highway 8 was reopened to traffic.

A Standard Chemical official said a tanker truck would probably be brought to the scene to pump the 55 tons of chlorine out of the tanker which lay on its side under a pile of oil tankers.

Several thousand gallons of oil flowed into a creek near the scene and emptied into the Ottawa River, about half a mile away but officials from the Quebec department of the environment were on the scene early in the afternoon to place a barrier in the creek to catch the oil. A neutralizer was sprayed on the oil.

A spokesman for CP Rail said it was expected the wreckage would not be cleared until noon today after which time extensive repairs to the damaged rail ties would have to be carried out.

Passengers travelling CP Rail between Ottawa and Montreal last night and this morning were bused between Ottawa and Montebello and travelled by day liner on the Montebello to Montreal section.

The final irony of the crash. An oil tanker truck travelling on the detour around the crash scene overturned on the St. Hyacinthe Range, and temporarily blocked the detour Wednesday afternoon. The driver was not injured.

12/04/1973 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute**Papineauville*

Tanker car in collision

Deadly cargo saved

By Scott Honeyman and Tom Van Dusen Citizen staff writers

PAPINEAUVILLE A tanker car full of chlorine sat in the middle of an oil-fuelled inferno after a derailment here Wednesday, but firemen kept its deadly cargo from escaping.

The end of the car painted red to indicate dangerous cargo could be seen through sheets of flame that soared from six fuel cars after the westbound CP Rail freight train was hit by a semi-trailer truck.

More than 100 firemen from every town between Gatineau and Grenville a stretch of about 60 miles poured water onto the damaged chlorine car, and had to ignore flames that levelled a house, shed and travel trailer.

Canadian Transport Commission chemical engineer Ross Maitland said he was surprised the intense heat from blazing Bunker C oil and gasoline didn't cause pressure valves on the chlorine car to rupture.

Had the valves gone, great clouds of green chlorine gas would have escaped as the chlorine was converted from pressure-packed liquid to poisonous gas, choking anyone in its path.

Residents evacuated

Mr. Maitland said it was fortunate the wind was blowing from the north west, away from Papineauville and across the Ottawa River to an uninhabited area.

Playing it safely, Quebec Provincial Police ordered a square-mile area surrounding the wreck evacuated, sending about 300 residents west to Papineauville.

While most of the battle was to stop the chlorine tanker from leaking, thousands of gallons of heavy, tar-like oil spilled from ruptured oil tankers into a creek which flows directly into the Ottawa River.

The slick it created in the river could be seen from more than a mile away.

Weeks of Study May Find Cause

By David Smithers Citizen staff writer PAPINEAUVILLE Trains again rumbled through this community Thursday night, but the task of investigating the cause of Wednesday's massive derailment will take weeks.

In addition, environment experts are still cleaning up the mess left after thousands of gallons of bunker oil spewed from ruptured tanker cars into the Ottawa River.

CP Rail crews have worked around the clock since the derailment which occurred about 10 a.m. Wednesday clearing the main line.

A truck slammed into the locomotive leading the 100-car train. Twenty cars, some carrying the bunker oil, one carrying chlorine, and another a caustic substance, ripped up the track.

Wrong licence

Flaming oil razed a nearby house, travel trailer and a shed. There were no serious injuries.

The driver of the heavy truck, Leo Boutet, 17, of St. Basil, Que., leaped from the vehicle seconds before the collision. He told police the brakes failed.

Police said today the teenager was improperly licensed to drive the truck. He had an operator's license but needed a chauffeur's permit, said QPP Sgt. Andre Leduc today. Mechanics from provincial transport department headquarters were at the scene today

examining what was left of the vehicle.

Welfare officials are still attempting to find accommodation for the family of 10 whose home was destroyed by the fire. The Normand Allards fled for their lives after their house was drenched in flaming oil. They are staying with relatives in nearby Plaisance.

The federal department of the environment assumed responsibility Thursday for cleaning up what was left of the oil spill.

Little was done to contain the treacly oil for about 24 hours after the accident. Thousands of gallons poured into a creek which flows 500 feet to the Ottawa..

Booms are in place today to ensure remaining oil is contained.

Officials of the Canadian Wildlife Service were also touring the downstream waterfront Thursday, checking for possible damage the oil may have caused migrating geese and ducks.

There have been no reports of injury to wildlife, but checks continue.

In addition, Ontario environment inspectors are checking the southern shore of the Ottawa for possible oil contamination.

11/05/1973 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute**Papineauville*

CP SUING SMALL FIRM OVER CRASH

CP Rail is suing a small Quebec trucking company for \$1 million as the result of last month's train-truck collision at Papineauville.

The suit has been filed in Hull Superior Court against La Compagnie GERALAIN, whose semitrailer truck was in collision with the side of a freight. Nineteen cars were derailed.

The derailment caused extensive fire damage and oil pollution. One home was destroyed when tank cars caught fire.

CP Rail alleges in its suit that the brakes failed on the truck, which was being driven by a 17-year-old, who managed to throw himself clear just before the collision.

The railway company says it cleaned up the oil spillage, although it denies responsibility. Fuel spilled into a stream which flows into the Ottawa River.

04/12/1974 *Ottawa Journal**Lachute**Gatineau*

Eleven injured in train crash

By DAVE McKAY : Journal Reporter

Gatineau police believe vandals caused the derailment of a two-car CP passenger train which resulted in 11 persons being taken to hospitals Tuesday night.

Nine of the 11 injured were treated for shock and released from hospital following the 8.45 p.m. wreck.

Engineer Harold Greenlaw of 1130 Meadowlands Dr. was treated for shock and back injuries.

Conductor Rene Labelle of Verdun, Que., and brakeman George McKale of Val-des-rapides were treated for shock.

Passengers treated for shock and minor cuts were: Maurice Bourdon, of Masson, William Kicks of Ottawa, Eddley Dwyer and Christopher Dwyer both of St. Amase, Philip St. Germain and William Kesler both of Montreal, Margaret Morton of Ottawa and Mrs. Mignon Lavigne of Rockland.

There were 12 persons on the train including the three-man crew at the time of the derailment, police said.

Police said a switch at the junction of the main line at Montee Paiment Boulevard crossing had been tampered with prior to the derailment

The front part of the self-propelled train, slipped onto the spur but the train's speed coupled with the back pressure of the second car caused the tracks to spread apart with the front part of the train sliding along the ground ending up on its side about 150 feet from the tracks

"It was a lucky thing that the train had stopped in Gatineau because it 'didn't have a chance to build up speed," said a police spokesman.

The second car remained upright but at a 45-degree angle, skidding just its own length from the tracks.

A crane will be used to put the two cars back on the tracks.

No one has been arrested in connection, with the smashed switch..

04/12/1974 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute**Gatineau*

CP passenger train derailed in Gatineau, six people injured.

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The two-unit train left the tracks at 8.43 p.m., three minutes after leaving Gatineau station enroute to Hull and Ottawa with nine passengers and three crew members.

"It would have been much worse if the train had been travelling faster," commented Constable Gerry Pilote who arrived at the scene minutes after the accident occurred.

The derailment took place at the junction of the main CP line and a Gatineau Lumber Co. siding, about 30 feet north of Maloney Boulevard.

While cause of the derailment has not been determined, police officials speculated vandals tampering with a line switch near the accident scene may be responsible.

The slow speed of the train prevented the two cars from rolling and possibly crushing the occupants.

Miraculously, occupants of the first unit, a combination engine-passenger car, suffered only shock and bruises.

Engineer Harold Greenlaw of Ottawa and four passengers occupied the first unit, which ended up on its side 200 feet from the main line.

The second unit was perched precariously on an angle a few feet from the main line. Only deep snow and a hydro pole prevented the unit from toppling over.

The train makes a regular nightly run from Montreal to Ottawa, arriving in the city at 9.05 p.m. after dropping passengers off in Gatineau and Hull.

Constable Pilote said all 12 occupants of the train were shaken up, but stated that only six, including Engineer Greenlaw, required treatment.

Five were treated at Sacred Heart Hospital in Hull for shock, cuts and bruises and later released. One passenger was taken to Ottawa General Hospital for observation of bruises to the head.

Lawsuits from '73 train-truck collision heard in Hull Court

Hearings into lawsuits involving damage claims of more than \$1 million resulting from a Papineauville train-truck collision three years ago started in Hull court today.

In one suit CP Rail is claiming \$1 million from a local trucking company. In the other, a Papineauville family is claiming damages of \$167,800 from CP Rail and the same trucking firm, Geralin Inc.

In the second suit, the Quebec Solicitor-General's Department is also named.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lalande's house was destroyed on the morning of April 11, 1973, after a truck owned by Geralin struck a 100-car freight train at a level crossing, resulting in a 20-car derailment.

One of the train's three engines also jumped the tracks. Bunker C oil from the derailed tanker cars spewed out ablaze and set fire to the nearby two-storey house where the Lalandes lived with their daughter, her husband, and nine grandchildren.

Although four members of the family were home at the time, none were seriously injured.

The blazing inferno, fought for several hours by 100 firemen, also forced the evacuation of 300 nearby residents because one of the tanker cars contained highly toxic chlorine. Truck driver Leo Boutet of St. Basil, Que., 17 at the time, jumped clear of his truck moments before it smashed into one of the locomotives. He told police his brakes failed as he approached the level crossing.

01/10/1976 *Ottawa Citizen**Lachute**Papineauville*

Runaway Steel

Trapper tells court how crash wrecked house

By Mark Van Dusen Citizen staff writer

Life was crowded but happy in the little house below the railway tracks until the day that tons of runaway steel exploded into the picture.

That day was described in court at Hull Thursday by one of the people who lived in the house near Papineauville, 68-year-old George Lalande, a trapper.

Mr. Lalande was testifying at the second day of a hearing of lawsuits involving damages of \$167,00 from CP Rail, a trucking firm, a truck driver and the Quebec Solicitor-General's Department.

The suits result from a train-truck crash on April 11, 1973. CP Rail revised its claim Thursday against the trucking firm, Geralin Inc., of Portneuf, to half a million dollars from its original estimate of \$1.2 million.

The collision happened at 10:30 a.m. at a level crossing one mile east of Papineauville on Highway 148. Involved were a tractor trailer owned by Geralin, and a 54-car CP Rail freight train bound for Ottawa from Montreal.

On the first day of the hearing, the court heard that the driver of the tractor trailer, Leo Boutet, 17, was not licensed to drive the vehicle which was laden with wood chips.

The court was also told he had been warned against driving the truck when the brakes froze only an hour earlier.

In the collision, the second of the train's three engines burst into flames and was sent churning from the railroad bed above the two-storey frame house where George Lalande was sleeping.

Although 14 people lived in the house Mr. and Mrs. Lalande, a daughter-in-law, their daughter, her husband and their nine children only five were home. Most of the children had only recently left for school.

The diesel dug a trench in the land as it hurtled toward the house, and the third engine nose-dived, derailing 20 cars. Blazing oil from overturned tankers washed against the house, setting it on fire. T

A car containing highly-toxic chlorine rolled to rest against one wall of the house. More than 300 people were evacuated from the area.

The engine came to rest against the house, nudging the outside kitchen wall. Ironically, George Lalande might be dead if it hadn't.

Twenty-six years of living near made him immune to the rumble three or four times a day.

"The jolt woke me up," he told the hearing. "I only had time to pull on a pair of boots, my pants and an undershirt. The flames were coming in the windows."

The others got out ahead of him. The house and four outbuildings were destroyed. There was no insurance.

Mr. Lalande, who needed help itemizing his lost trapping, hunting and fishing equipment because he can't read, was the first of the family to appear at the hearing.

His life of trapping muskrat 250 pelts and 300 traps were destroyed in the fire along the Ottawa River, prompted a Montreal lawyer to comment, "I didn't know people lived like that any more around here."

Diminutive, bent, head cocked for better hearing, Mr. Lalande set off ripples of laughter in the courtroom with his wry answers which were usually accompanied by a wink and a smile.

But all were silent when he told how he and his wife, who is over 80, lived in a trailer for five months following the accident, and how they are now renting lodging at a neighbor's for \$50 a month.

The rest of the family moved to the upstairs of the CP Rail station in Papineauville rent-free.

Nobody laughed when Mr. Lalande said CP Rail bulldozers cleaning up after the wreck flattened his strawberry patch.

"I don't want any handouts from anybody," he said outside the courtroom. "All I want is enough money to build a house for me and my wife to spend our last days."

CP Rail lawyer Albert Gadbois said the company, in revising its claim against Geralin, based the new figure of \$507,624 on more detailed accounts not previously tabulated.

In earlier testimony, engineer Douglas Chalmers who was driving the train when the truck hit, said he did not know what kind of freight the cars contained.

He said he could see the road up to the beginning of a curve but did not see any vehicles as he approached the crossing.

Other members of the Lalande family were to itemize their losses today.

16/11/1981 Ottawa Citizen Lachute

Last call for VIA northshore to Hull, Gatineau, Templeton, Masson-Buckingham

There is a certain irony to the call as it echoes through the nearly deserted Ottawa station, slicing through the early morning fog.

When VIA Northshore Number 170 began its four hour trek to Montreal at 7.30 a.m. Saturday, it was the beginning of the end.

For most of this century, the little passenger train has been as familiar to residents of rural West Quebec as the smell of morning coffee.

The train is the victim of Transport Canada's decision to reduce 20 per cent of VIA Rail's services across Canada. It has been the major, and in some cases, the only, transportation for many West Quebecers.

Lucie Chevrier, whose lively eyes and quick smile belie her 80 years, has been boarding the Northshore at papineauville almost once a week for the past 63 years to visit her sister in Montreal.

Now, she doesn't know now if she will go to Montreal as often.

"I guess I'll have to take the bus but it doesn't leave until noon," she said Saturday. "I'm very upset with the Liberals. They don't understand how important the train is to us."

For Claire papineau the end of the train is a disappointment. Riding the train has been a "tradition" for the past 40 years.

Papineau, who lives in Laval, was returning from a trip to Papineauville to visit her sisters.

"The bus is about double the price", she lamented. "And it takes much longer than the train. I'm so disappointed."

For others discontinuing the Northshore means more than longer travelling time to visit relatives.

Giselle Burke of Montebello has been taking the train to Bordeaux, just outside Montreal, for the last 12 years to visit her doctor.

She's not looking forward to taking the bus.

"My appointment is at 11 Saturday morning, but the bus doesn't leave until noon. I'll have to change the appointment or go to Bordeaux Friday night

12/12/1986 Le Droit Lachute Montebello

CP Rail's beautiful log station at Montebello, Quebec, has been sold for \$1.00 on the condition that it be moved from its present site. Land has been purchased across the street with the move of the 1930-era station scheduled for next summer (Branchline).

02/08/1989 Ottawa Citizen Lachute Montebello

STATION RELOCATED: CP's unique log station at Montebello, Quebec, has been relocated 300 metres onto a new foundation in the heart of the village on Notre Dame Street for use as a year-round tourist-history interpretation centre and boutique.

The 33 metre long by 12.6 metre wide station was built in 1931 from logs to complement the nearby hexagonal Log Chateau, now the Chateau Montebello. For many years the station served well-to-do tourists, big name politicians and businessmen on their way to the exclusive and private Seigniori Club, which operated out of the Log Chateau. The station last received passengers on November 14, 1981, when VIA RDC-1 6102 made the last passenger run over the Lachute Subdivision.

27/08/1990 Ottawa Citizen Lachute Prince of Wales Bridge

With Picture.

Hanging on for the last train.

As daredevil boys hang on to the prince of Wales bridge near Lemieux Island steam locomotive 1201 crossed the Ottawa River for the last time Sunday.

"Its extremely dangerous to do that," cautioned Constable Paul Gray of the Ottawa Police. "The boys should know better.

The money-losing city excursions will not continue next year, says Paul Bown, president of the Bytown Railway Society. The train took riders on a 90-minute excursion around the city.

21/08/1991 West Quebec Post Lachute Masson

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER FATE OF MASSON/BUCKINGHAM JUNCTION STATION: To the west of Lachute lies the community of Masson which boasts a hyphenated station name, "Masson - Buckingham Junction". The latter signifies that Masson is the junction with the 4 plus mile "Buckingham Subdivision", which serves its name sake community at the top of the hill overlooking Masson, which is situated on the edge of the Ottawa River.

The station there is a long frame structure, dating back to the Quebec, Montreal and Occidental Railway, the original builders of the Lachute Subdivision. Its architecture is very distinctive and decidedly "Quebecois".

The last passenger train (VIA No. 177) cleared Masson -Buckingham Junction on November 14, 1981. Since then the facility has been used by Maintenance of Way crews.

Now CP wants to remove it. The town council is interested in acquiring it and turning it into a tourist site in a move reminiscent of the community of Montebello to the east where two years ago, the community moved the distinctive log station there to a prominent location on the main street.

A feasibility study has been commissioned. Here's hoping that they are successful.

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21/10/1991 L'Argenteuil Watchman Lachute

CP Rail shows tremendous patience over disposal of stations.

Canadian Pacific does not seem overly anxious to proceed with plans for the disposal of its stations at Lachute and Calumet, Quebec. Both facilities are surplus to company requirements. In each case community support for their retention has been strong and the company - in the case of Calumet - has given the town two years to come up with the funding to acquire the facility and convert it into a library. Proposals for the Lachute station are still under consideration with a Save the Station Committee holding an open house on October 23.

23/10/1991 West Quebec Post Lachute Montebello

Recession closes station gallery.

Financial difficulties have led to the closure of the tourist information bureau and art gallery, located in the former Canadian Pacific station in Montebello, Quebec.

Built of logs - to match the Chateau Montebello - the station was moved from its trackside location to the town's main street in the summer of 1989 and shortly thereafter, opened as a tourist bureau and art gallery.

According to the art gallery owner, the station has been "a victim of recession." At the moment the Board of Directors is soliciting the provincial government for funding.

21/08/1993 *Le Droit*

Lachute

Montebello

ALL ABOARD FOR MONTEBELLO?: Negotiations are now taking place between la Compagnie de chemin de fer Choo Choo Inc., operators of the Hull, Gatineau and Chelsea Railway, and CP Hotels' Le Chateau Montebello about the operation of a steam tourist train from Hull to Montebello, Quebec, over CP Rail's partially embargoed Lachute Subdivision. The project has the backing of area municipalities as well as hotel management. What is unclear is CP Rail's position. Were some type of accord to be reached, Choo Choo Inc., has stated that additional equipment would be purchased from Sweden to operate the service. Currently Choo Choo Inc. operates the Wakefield steam train from Hull to Wakefield, Quebec. (Branchline)

07/12/1993 *Le Droit*

Lachute

Montebello

MONTEBELLO STEAM TRAIN: Choo Choo Inc., the company which operates the Hull-Wakefield steam tourist train, is negotiating a deal with CP Hotels and CP Rail System to run steam-powered tourist excursions between Hull, Quebec, and CP Hotels' Chateau Montebello in Montebello, Quebec. The hotel is located adjacent to the partially-embargoed Lachute Subdivision. According to Choo Choo Inc. president Marc Grondin, "We have had several requests and have made a marketing study which proves we could undertake excursions to Montebello. It's further than Wakefield, but the track is easier and regulations would allow us to go faster so the trip could be made in less than two hours. If the operation goes through, it will be financed entirely from private sector investments, unlike the Wakefield operation which is a combination of government (all levels) and private money. In anticipation of the new service, Grondin has indicated that he would purchase two additional locomotives plus cars. The origin of the new rolling stock is uncertain. Some press accounts have stated that it would be Swedish equipment while there are other suggestions that North American equipment (from the United States) might be utilized. (Branchline)

09/03/1994 *West Quebec Post*

Lachute

SAVE THE LACHUTE SUBDIVISION: A group from Quebec's lower Ottawa Valley wants to prevent Canadian Pacific from abandoning its Lachute Subdivision between St-Augustin and Thurso. The line has been identified for a possible tourist train operation which would focus on the world-famous Chateau Montebello Hotel in Montebello. According to Papineau MNA Norm MacMillan, "Montebello wants to do something like the Wakefield tourist train. I can understand CP Rail wanting to close down the track if they're not making any money, but maybe we can", said MacMillan (Branchline).

08/03/1995 *West Quebec Post*

Lachute

LOG TRAINS ROLL ON THE LACHUTE SUBDIVISION. After a lengthy absence, log trains have returned to CP Rail System's Lachute Subdivision. The western end of the line, which follows the north shore of the Ottawa River, serves a number of pulp and paper mills and, in its glory days, also carried many shipments of logs. This traffic disappeared for a number of years but is now back, thanks to poor local demand for softwood logs and a surging demand south of the border. Tonnes of hemlock logs are being shipped by rail from Buckingham to Glens Falls, New York. The 400 km journey is cheaper by rail than using logging trucks. There are also plans to ship logs to Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, as well as Quebec City. (Branchline)

05/04/1995 *Canadian Press*

Lachute

Company endorses railbus study.

Canadian Pacific will participate in a study of the use of busses on rail corridors in the National Capital Region. This study, launched by the Outaouais Regional Government, will examine the use of commuter busses on rail rights-of-way. The regional Government launched the study after rejecting a CP Rail proposal to set up an inter-provincial commuter rail system linking Gatineau and Hull, Quebec with Ottawa.

17/10/1995 *La Presse*

Lachute

PROVINCE PROTECTS LACHUTE SUBDIVISION FROM ABANDONMENT: The Province of Quebec has moved to prevent Canadian Pacific from dismantling that portion of its Lachute Subdivision between a point near Ste-Therese (mileage 28.0) and a point near Thurso (mileage 90.1). The company had received the necessary authority from the NTA to abandon the segment.

The Province of Quebec was able to invoke its Law on Special Development and Urban Planning to save the line, following requests made from politicians of affected communities along the line. The law protects the line from abandonment for up to two years, after which decisions will be required as to whether or not the abandonment will be allowed.

The Lachute Subdivision connects Montreal and Ottawa and is the only CP line to do so on a direct basis. Presently, the line is operated as two segments.

Service from Montreal to Ste-Therese is provided by trains operating out of St-Luc Yard while service from Thurso west is provided by trains operating out of Ottawa. Most traffic between Thurso and Ottawa is forwarded to CP's main line via Bedell and a connection with the Winchester Subdivision. (Branchline)

02/02/2008 *Ottawa Citizen*

Lachute

Quebec railway upgrade coming

The federal and Quebec governments will spend \$14 million to upgrade the Quebec-Gatineau railway by replacing railway ties and ballast along the 483-kilometre freight line between Quebec City and Gatineau. The railway links industrial centres in Quebec City, Montreal, Lachute and Gatineau. Genesee Rail-One the Canadian subsidiary of Genesee & Wyoming Inc. bought the line from CP rail in 1997. The regional railway ships products such as wood, paper, particle board, ore over short lines to the U.S.

01/05/2010 *Ottawa Citizen*

Lachute

Hull

Gatineau's transit company has bought the rail line between the Prince of Wales rail bridge and Montée Paiement to build a busway, but its plans should hearten Ottawa transit advocates who still hope to see commuter trains cross the Ottawa River.

Spokeswoman Céline Gauthier said the Société de transport de l'Outaouais will pay Chemins de fer Québec-Gatineau Inc. \$2.5 million for the 15-kilometre disused rail line. The STO plans to remove the track on land to complete a 12-station \$233.5-million bus transitway by fall 2011.

But Gauthier said the STO will rebuild the rail line next to the Gatineau busway when the road is completed, in case the line is needed in the future. The STO will own the line through the Société de transport ferroviaire de Gatineau (Gatineau Railway Company).

The City of Ottawa owns the Prince of Wales Bridge, which links the STO's new rail line with the current end of Ottawa's O-Train line at Bayview. The city bought it from Canadian Pacific in 2004, with an eye to someday extending Ottawa's rail service to collect and drop off passengers on the Gatineau side. Gatineau has resisted, since it settled on a bus-based system for its transit future, but the STO's promise to re-lay tracks to the bridge at least leaves open the possibility of a rail connection between the cities.

"We are working on a study of a link between the two cities with the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa," Gauthier said. "The options for linking downtown Ottawa to the downtown Hull sector will be released this summer or fall.

"There will be several crossing options, but I can't say what they will be. We don't know yet whether one of the crossings could be the Prince of Wales Bridge which is owned by the City of Ottawa."

Marie Lemay, the chief executive of the NCC, said the study will determine how to integrate the two transit systems.

"They are looking at a number of short-, medium- and long-term solutions and I hope we will be able to share those with the public in June," Lemay said. "The Prince of Wales Bridge is definitely being considered in all the scenarios.

"Another thing that is being examined is a commuter loop around Confederation Boulevard. At the end of the day the STO and OC Transpo will have to agree with the results of the study because we can't impose a solution."

MRC Argenteuil seeks symbols of the past

Lachute. On September 24 and 26 the history of the Lachute train station is expected to come back to life, when city officials cut the ribbon and officially inaugurate the newly restored train station.

Now home to Tourism Argenteuil, Collective Transport and a slew of other regional services, the former train station is once again open to the public, after sitting behind boarded windows for over 20 years.

"We have opened the doors to the exterior populations so that they might rediscover the train station. Our seniors may remember it when it was a train station and those under the age of 30 can discover it for the first time", said Lachute mayor Daniel Mayer.

It is the intention of city officials to use the former train station as a living museum in which photos and articles from Argenteuil's past are displayed for public viewing. Stained glass windows from St. Julien's church are already on display, as are signs and pieces of art and memorabilia.

The MRC Argenteuil is seeking photos of the train station as well as objects that document the history of the region, so that his public buildings might be better preserved.

During Quebec Cultural Day on September 28th, the doors to the train station will be thrown open and an invitation has been issued to those who might like to tour the building and view some of the history of the region.

If you have photos you would like to share contact news@laurentianreview.ca

06/05/2015 CBC News Lachute

CBC News May 6 Wed

The historic Wakefield steam train that's been offline for the past four years could be back on the rails by 2017, but its new route likely won't take it through the town that made it famous.

The Compagnie de Chemin de Fer de l'Outaouais, or CCFO — the corporation managed by the municipalities of Gatineau, Chelsea and La Pêche that oversees the train — decided Wednesday on its new route, which will run from Masson-Angers to Montebello.

The Montebello route was chosen over two other proposals: an urban route through Gatineau and another route that would have taken the tourist train back to Wakefield.

'Confused and disappointed'

The decision to run the train to Montebello instead of Wakefield is an unfortunate one, said Marc Fournier, president of the Wakefield Steam Group.

"We're confused and disappointed. We've fulfilled all the requirements and still we end up with no project," said Fournier, who owns a confectionery in the town. "It belongs in Wakefield."

Fournier added he's not ruling out the possibility his group will buy a different vintage steam train and operate its own tourist run.

The century-old train hasn't been in operation since 2011 when the rail bed between Gatineau and Wakefield was washed out during heavy rains.

The promoters of the Montebello route now have until the end of August to get their finances in place and shorten the route from the current three hours to 90 minutes.

If all the requirements are met, the train could be in operation along the new route by 2017.