

Local Railway Items from Ottawa Papers - Winchester

Friday 04/04/1884 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls
Seventy-five men are at work preparing the yard for the Ontario and Quebec Railway at Smiths Falls. Besides a station, a round-house will be built this spring.

Saturday 07/03/1885 Ottawa Citizen Winchester
It is stated that the branch line of the CPR from Smiths Falls to Lachine will be commenced about the first of July under general superintendence of Mr. Dan Duan who will relinquish his position on the eastern division for this purpose.

Monday 13/07/1885 Ottawa Free Press Winchester Rideau River bridge
The putting up of the ironwork of the Canadian Pacific railway bridge over the Rideau river was begun last week. --
Note: No indication as to which bridge this refers to but likely the new bridge at Merrickville..

Saturday 10/04/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester
The location of the Canadian Pacific short line between Smiths Falls and Montreal has been decided upon. The work of construction will at once be begun, and it is the intention to have the road completed by 1st January next. In all probability the round house will be established in Smiths Falls, as great inducements are offered them to locate there, and if so, it will prove a great boon to the town.

Saturday 24/04/1886 Ottawa Citizen Winchester
The C.P.R. Short Line. The Canadian Pacific Railway will receive tenders for the construction of the Ontario and Quebec extension from Smiths Falls to Montreal until 14th prox. The length of the line to be constructed is 121 miles.

Friday 21/05/1886 Ottawa Citizen Winchester
Montreal 20th. Contracts were awarded yesterday for the construction of the short line between Montreal and Smiths Falls to the following firms: Messrs. W. Bachner; Hutchinson; Wood and Molesworth; John Drew; T. & J. Robson; Corbett & Skead; Breer; Conolly, Briggs & McMahon; J. & W.G. Elliott; Fauquier & Dunwoodie; Davis Bros.; Ross & Holt; at fair prices. The distance to be traversed by this new line will be about 126 miles. It will pass through the counties of Soulanges, Vaudreuil, Glengarry, Stormont, Dundas and North Grenville until it strikes the original Ontario and Quebec portion. The principle part of the railway is expected to be finished by the end of September and the whole of the line by the end of October. Mr. H.L. Lumsden C.E. will be the chief engineer for 104 miles from Vaudreuil to Smiths Falls. while Mr. P.A. Patterson C.E. will have charge of 24 miles from Montreal to Vaudreuil. Mr. T.G. Shaughnessy will be manager of the construction throughout.

Tuesday 15/06/1886 Ottawa Citizen Winchester
The Morrisburg Courier says that work on the Ontario and Quebec Railroad portion of the C.P.R. short line is now going on through Mountain, Winchester and Finch, with hundreds of teams and about 1,000 men grading. Property is booming up fast and the holders are looking forward and preparing to enter into all the enterprises that are necessary for the growth of two prosperous towns in Winchester. The expenditure of money on this railroad will be over \$13,000 per mile and about one half will be paid direct for right of way and construction, for contractors, labourers and for produce from farmers, etc.

Monday 21/06/1886 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Merrickville
Great excitement prevails among the residents of the proposed short line from Smiths Falls to Montreal, at the quick execution of that important work. Some two hundred navvies are at work in the neighbourhood of Merrickville, and grading excavations are already made for two miles.

Wednesday 30/06/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester
Mr. R. Lester, contractor of Ottawa, has just opened extensive new quarries back of Hull in the vicinity of Mr. C.B. Wright's quarries. Mr. Lester has a large gang of men engaged in getting out stone for his contract with the new Short Line Railroad for the construction of the bridges on the line.

Wednesday 06/07/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester
A Kemptville correspondent writes that a visit to the camp of Messrs. Corbet & Kemp. Contractors for the five miles division of the short line, C.P.R., east of Kemptville, shows the work to be in a forward state. Mr. Tod Lyons, who is bookkeeper and storekeeper for the contractors, said he expects this division to be completed in about six or seven weeks at the longest, when the gang will be removed to another contract. There are, at present, about 150 men on the works.

Thursday 22/07/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester Merrickville
The stone work on the bridge on the C.P.R. short line at Merrickville will be finished before Saturday night. Operations are also being pushed forward at Kemptville, where the stone work of the bridge crossing the river there will be finished within three weeks. There is a great scarcity of labor at both places. The road has been graded to a point ten miles west of Kemptville. All the grading will be finished before fall and the bridges at St. Anne's and Vandreuil (sic) will be completed early in December. The greatest activity prevails at the Hull quarries where a great proportion of the stone is being obtained. A large number of barges are employed carrying stone down the river to St. Anne's.

Tuesday 29/07/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester
Several employees working on the Short Line near Kemptville left work last week and, as the contractors, T. & G. Robinson, would not deviate from the rule of not paying men who voluntarily quit work until the next pay day, the employees sued the contractors. The case came up at Brockville last Saturday, Mr. G.E. Kydd, appearing for the defendants, when judgment was given dismissing the action against the contractors.

Saturday 04/09/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester
In about a week or ten days the contractors on the Smiths Falls end of the new short line railway will be through as far as the grading is concerned. All along the line work is being pushed with great rapidity. Track laying will be commenced at once, and Mr. Lumsden, the chief engineer, is of the opinion that the road will be ready for traffic this fall.

Wednesday 08/09/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester
Mr. Guy Campbell of Messrs. O'Neil & Campbell, contractors Kemptville, was in town today. He says the rails are being rapidly laid on the Short Line from Kemptville eastward. The rails began to be laid in that section the day before yesterday.

Thursday 30/09/1886 Ottawa Free Press Winchester
Mr. Sims, of the firm of Sims & Slater, was in the city today, having come down last evening from his contract on the Smiths Falls and Lachine branch of the C.P.R. railway. He states that the construction train has been running for some time over a great portion of the line, and that it is intended to run a passenger train in November.

Wednesday 05/10/1886 Ottawa Citizen Winchester

The short line railway is reported to be proceeding at a very fast pace and will be in working order from Smiths Falls to Montreal before the winter sets in. Over 70 miles of track from Smiths Falls to Mountain, Dundas County, is laid, although not graded. The Nation River and Ste. Anne's bridges are now nearly completed and three others are well under weigh (sic). Workmen are busy all along the route day and night.

Wednesday 06/10/1886 Ottawa Free Press Winchester

The Short Line railway is said to be progressing at a very fast rate and will be in working order between Smiths Falls and Montreal by January first. Over 70 miles of track from Smiths Falls to Mountain, Dundas county, is laid although not fully graded. The St. Ann's and Nation river bridges are nearly completed.

Saturday 09/10/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester

Telegraph construction on the Smiths Falls Short line is now in an advanced stage of completion. Large gangs of men are working from both ends of the line, and will meet shortly. There will be one railway wire and five for commercial purposes. Connection will be made with the system here.

Friday 22/10/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester

The work of construction of the new Short Line Railroad is being pushed on with astonishing rapidity. Mr. A. Armstrong, of Merrickville, in conversation with a Journal reporter stated that the road from Smiths Falls to Merrickville was completed on Saturday 9th inst. And that on the Monday following a construction train ran from Smiths Falls to Merrickville. The company have made arrangements to have the Perth train, which runs from Smiths Falls to Perth, run down to Merrickville, so that on Monday next the first passenger and freight train will run from Perth to Merrickville and return. Workmen are engaged building the station at Merrickville. It will be situated just above the bridge over the Rideau on the north side of the river at the eastern extremity of the village.

"How about the bridge across the Rideau?"

"Well, they are still working on it. All the piers will be finished in a short time and part of the ironwork and woodwork has been commenced. I think it will be finished about the 1st of December."

"Is any of the line below Merrickville constructed?"

"Yes. All the line from Perth to Ste. Anne's is graded and ready for the rails but the bridges are not built yet, consequently I think the connections will not be made till mid winter. The track is laid all the way from Kemptville to Merrickville and construction trains are carrying supplies from the opposite side of the river at Merrickville to four miles below Kemptville where the track ends. As soon as the bridge is built the freight and passenger trains will run to Kemptville, and from appearances, I think that by the month of February the entire line will be completed, and through trains will run from the Pacific coast over the main line of the C.P.R. and connect with the new short line above Perth, and run over it to Montreal. Thus this line will make a short air line by which the through freight of the Canadian Pacific Railroad can be carried through to or from Montreal without delay.

Saturday 23/10/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester

Train after train laden with steel rails for use on the Short Line are passing through the city daily.

Thursday 04/11/1886 Ottawa Citizen Winchester

The short line railroad from Smiths Falls to Montreal is now well advanced towards completion. Trains are now running from Smiths Falls to Merrickville and from Bell's Corners (sic) to Kemptville. the St. Anne's, Oxford Mills and Kemptville bridges are now nearing completion by which time straight connections with Montreal will be made.

Thursday 04/11/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester

Trains on the Short Line railway are now running from Smiths Falls to Merrickville and from Bells Corners to Kemptville. The St. Anne's, Oxford Mills and Kemptville bridges are now nearing completion, by which time straight connection with Montreal will be made.

Thursday 23/11/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester

The C.P.R. authorities say the new short line between Smiths Falls and Montreal will be the best piece of road on the line. The route is good and the rails are to be heavier and better material than is generally used. The new bridge across the Rideau river at Merrickville will not be finished for two months yet. The five piers are each forty-five feet high, in order to let boats pass underneath. Property in both Merrickville and Smiths Falls has enhanced considerably in value since the starting of this work.

Wednesday 24/11/1886 Ottawa Citizen Winchester

The bridge over the Rideau River at Merrickville, for the C.P.R. short line, is not expected to be finished for two months yet. The new line is expected to be as good a piece of work as any in the whole of the C.P.R. The rails are to be heavier than those commonly used.

Thursday 02/12/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester

Construction on the Smiths Falls short line is still being rushed forward. Ballast trains are now running from Smiths Falls to Merrickville, and the rails have also been laid from Kemptville to South Finch. The road has also been built from Montreal to Ste. Polycarpe, leaving an uncompleted gap of twenty-six miles extending from the latter place to South Finch. Trains will run over the line early in February.

Thursday 09/12/1886 Ottawa Journal Winchester

Mr. T.G. Shannasay (sic), assistant general manager of the C.P.R. was in Toronto yesterday. In conversation with a reporter he said that only 37 miles of track now had to be laid to complete the air line of the C.P.R. from Smiths Falls to Montreal. The masonry for the bridges was completed and the iron work was being put in its place. He thought the road would be ready for opening about the 1st of May next. It could be opened earlier, only the company wanted to have it in first class condition.

Tuesday 04/01/1887 Ottawa Free Press Winchester Smiths Falls

The C.P.R. round house at Smiths Falls will contain forty pits and is 325 feet in diameter. Thirteen sections are completed and the others will be by May. The repair shops are 300x60. The engine room and finishing and blacksmiths shop are built in two wings in the shape of an L. Six inch pipes are laid to the place from Fosters. The station house will be as large as that at Perth and have a dining room attached. The yard will occupy 47 acres.

Friday 14/01/1887 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Merrickville

The first shipment ever made by rail from Merrickville was made last week, when Mr. S.T. Easton of Ottawa, shipped a carload of oats and buckwheat from Merrickville mills to a Winnipeg dealer by the C.P.R., via Smith's Falls.

Saturday 29/01/1887 Ottawa Free Press Winchester

Mr. Lumsden, the C.P.R. engineer in charge of the Smiths Falls short line, reports that only six miles of track laying remains to be done, and that ballasting will be completed early in the spring.

Monday 31/01/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester Merrickville

The trestle work on the Merrickville bridge was successfully tested last week when a locomotive and two cars were run over it.

Monday 21/03/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester Merrickville

The last span of the bridge is laid and the cars have at last reached here.

Tuesday 22/03/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester Merrickville

The new short line railroad bridge across the Rideau River at Merrickville, is now completed. The upper portion of the bridge is built of iron and the stone piers are of a most substantial nature. Trains are now running from Smiths Falls to Merrickville and as soon as the line is cleared of snow they will be able to run as far as Merrickville (sic). The railroad company have several first and second class passenger cars as well as a number of freight cars and several locomotives. A gentleman from Merrickville informed a Journal reporter that the line was now completed from Smiths Falls to Lachine and that the work of ballasting the road would be commenced as soon as the snow leaves the ground. The railroad company expect to have the line open by the 1st of June if no delays occur.

Tuesday 05/04/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester

A large quantity of lumber was shipped yesterday by Mr. Tompkins to Smiths Falls by the C.P.R. to be used on his contract for the construction of the stations on the line of the New Short Line.

Friday 15/04/1887 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls

Smiths Falls is happy after all. The C.P.R. have made all arrangements for building there a fine brick or stone station, 35 by 90 feet, with a large dining hall.

Saturday 07/05/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester

Mr. H.B. Spencer, assistant superintendent of the C.P.R., has just returned from a tour of inspection over the route of the New Short Line between Perth and Montreal. He says the road will be open for traffic by the first of June.

Monday 18/05/1887 Ottawa Free Press Winchester Merrickville

The Merrickville bridge on the new C.P.R. short line will be completed by Messrs. Newman & Co. in two weeks and the whole line will be in operation, it is expected, by the middle of June.

Saturday 11/06/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls water

A water tank of unusual size is being built at the railway yards connecting with the line of water pipes at present being laid.

Thursday 30/06/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

The plans for the new station at Smiths Falls have been finally settled. The main building will be 110 feet long, with wings at each end, making it in all 135 feet. There will be three waiting rooms, general, first class and ladies. There will be a number of offices in the building. At present it appears as if the building material would be wood throughout.

Monday 04/07/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

With the completion of the Smiths Falls Air-line of the C.P.R., which will be in about a month, Smiths Falls becomes a divisional centre between Montreal and Toronto. This will necessitate changing of trains and train hands, and as a consequence many of the latter will take up residence here. Already, two train men, at present living in Carleton Place, have rented houses in town.

Saturday 09/07/1887 Ottawa Free Press Winchester Smiths Falls

The C.P.R. company has definitely decided to build a new station house at Smiths Falls. It will be over one hundred feet long and will be provided with handsome waiting rooms and modern conveniences.

Friday 29/07/1887 Ottawa Free Press Winchester De Beaujeu

The work of erecting the new station house at the junction of the new short line and the C.A.R. is progressing favorably. The building will be completed before the autumn season.

Thursday 04/08/1887 Ottawa Free Press Winchester

The first through freight train on the Smiths Falls Short Line passed through Kemptville on Friday last and made the run in good time. The station at Merrickville is almost completed.

Monday 08/08/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester

The official car "Metapedia" (sic) arrived at the Union station on Saturday afternoon from Smiths Falls and was taken to Montreal by the Toronto express at 5.30 p.m. The "Metapedia" had on board General Superintendent C.W.S. Spencer, T. Ridout, government inspector, Messrs. Peterson, Lumsden and Armstrong with their assistants. The party had made a trip of inspection over the new Short Line from Montreal to Smiths Falls.

Wednesday 10/08/1887 Ottawa Journal Winchester

Mr. C.W. Spencer, general superintendent of the eastern division of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was in town today. He went over the Short Line Railway yesterday on a special and is well satisfied with his experiences between Montreal and Smiths Falls. He found the road to be in first class condition. On the way a test run was made, the special covering 62 miles in one hour. This is marvelous speed. One third of the station houses have been built. Speaking to a Journal reporter today he said:

"The train service over this line goes into effect Monday, and will be as perfect as possible. The equipment will be first class while the run from Montreal to Smiths Falls will be done in two hours and forty-five minutes schedule time. Ottawa will not suffer through the construction of the Short Line. It is true the Toronto trains will go south of Ottawa, but the Atlantic and Pacific expresses as well as the western freight traffic will continue to come this way. I have made an arrangement whereby a Pullman and a first class car will run from here every night direct to Toronto, connecting at Smiths Falls with the Montreal section.

Saturday 13/08/1887 Ottawa Citizen Winchester

Short line not yet in operation - see entry for Lachute sub. same day.

Tuesday 16/08/1887 Ottawa Free Press Winchester

The first through trains on the new air line between Toronto and Montreal via the Smiths Falls branch, arrived in Montreal at 3.15 a.m. and 8.15 p.m. yesterday, being exactly on time. This marks the inauguration of the new route between the Canadian Metropolis in the East and the Queen City of the West. Mr. C.W. Spencer, acting superintendent, was on the first train, which was crowded with passengers who were delighted with the speed of the train, a mile a minute. Other officials of the road were also aboard, and much enthusiasm was manifested along the route by residents as the trains rolled by. In future all trains from Montreal to Toronto will run over the new line, but trains for the Pacific coast will go via Ottawa as usual.

Friday 19/08/1887 Cornwall Freeholder Winchester

On Monday the new short line of the Canadian Pacific railway in Smiths Falls was opened for traffic and regular passenger trains commenced running. The road is 126 miles long and was built to give the Canadian Pacific a shorter route between Montreal and Toronto than by way of Ottawa, which has been in use for several years. The road is first class in every particular and has no superior on the continent. It is intended that through trains will make a speed of 40 to 50 miles an hour and the time between the two great centres be reduced very materially. It passes through a considerable section of Glengarry, Stormont and Dundas and will give the people of these counties greater railway facilities than they have heretofore enjoyed, and no doubt considerably enhance the value of their property. The road runs either through or close to the following towns and settlements - Peveril, Glen Norman, Glen Nevis, Glenroy, Green Valley, Loch Garry, Apple Hill, Gravel Hill, Monkland, Avonmore, South Finch, Chesterville and West Winchester.

The new road is only 14 miles from Cornwall, in the front of Roxborough, and we hope soon to see the town connected with the great National highway.

Thursday 22/09/1887 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Smiths Falls

The new station at Smiths Falls is now nearing completion. It is a substantial and handsome structure and lends a dignified appearance to that thriving little village.

Saturday 29/10/1887 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Smiths Falls

The C.P.R. company, finding mechanics so scarce about Smiths Falls, had to bring twenty men from Montreal to work on the freight shed,

Tuesday 15/11/1887 Ottawa Free Press Winchester Smiths Falls

The new railway station of the C.P.R. at Smiths Falls will be completed by the end of November. Mr. Tompkins, the contractor, is pushing the work as rapidly as possible.

Tuesday 20/12/1887 Ottawa Citizen Winchester

The \$50,000 poultry train from Smiths Falls to Boston made good speed, starting from Smiths Falls at 7 p.m. Thursday and reaching Boston at 5 p.m. on Saturday, making the total distance of 436 miles in 46 hours one of the fastest freight trips on record. From Smiths Falls the route lay to St. Polycarpe on the C.P.R., from St. Polycarpe to Rouses Point by C.A.R. and from Rouses Point to Boston by the Central Vermont and Boston and Lowell roads.

Friday 17/02/1888 Ottawa Free Press Winchester Merrickville

No. 3 express on the C.P.R. between Toronto and Montreal was detained yesterday through a freight being off the track at Merrickville. When the freight was approaching Pike Falls, it was seen by the section foreman who, knowing that the express had not yet passed up, thought the freight intended waiting for the express on the siding at that point. He opened the switch and the freight under a full head of steam rushed into and through it. The derailment at the other end was the cause of injuring the engineer and throwing the brakeman from the top of the cars. Eight cars, two containing stock, were derailed. The accident happened about three o'clock in the afternoon and the track was blocked for four hours. The expresses both ways had to transship and return.

Friday 16/03/1888 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls

The C.C. says that the change in the railway arrangements brought ten gangs to Carleton Place, all it is now stated from Ottawa. There are fifteen drivers, five being what are called spares. Accompanying them are the cleaners and the numerous other dependents who flow with the tide. The Record says Since Smiths Falls was made the divisional point from Chalk River, six more crews have been added to the number having headquarters here. It is reported that the station and all other buildings requiring light at Smiths Falls will be lighted by the incandescent system.

Friday 15/06/1888 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls

We recently noted that Mr. Tompkins who built the C.P.R. station at Smiths Falls, has been given the contract for the erection of some twenty buildings in Vancouver, B.C. The Winnipeg Free Press says that Halpenny & Co., of Winnipeg, are at present shipping brick from St. Boniface, to be used in these buildings.

Friday 02/05/1890 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls

The C.P.R. Company purpose making some improvements on their property at Smith's Falls. A long siding will be built for the accommodation of Frost & Wood.

Thursday 13/05/1890 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

It is rumoured that a conductors' waiting and reading room will be established at Smiths Falls this summer. The location was fixed when the CPR officials were at Smiths Falls two weeks ago, and it is expected that construction of the building will soon commence.

Monday 02/06/1890 Ottawa Journal Winchester

Duke and Duchess of Connaught left Toronto at eleven o'clock last night by special train consisting of baggage car, the "Saskatchewan" and the "Matapedia". Windsor Street, Montreal was reached at 10:37 this morning. Five slight stops were made at Chesterville, Avonmore, St. Clet, Dorval and Montreal Junction. At each of these places large crowds gathered and heartily cheered the royal party. More.

Tuesday 10/08/1890 Ottawa Journal Winchester Chesterville

A gang of Italians held up Mr. James Myers, a C.P.R. foreman at Chesterville a few nights ago and made dire threats against his person and property because they thought he had something to do with their wages being cut from \$1.40 to \$1.25 per day. The men were employed on the C.P.R. construction work, and when the announcement was made that they were to receive the smaller wage the Italians followed Myers to the station and kept him a prisoner until he was rescued by a squad of villagers who went to his assistance when they heard of the incident. The foreigners were in a decidedly ugly mood, and had threatened to kill the foreman and burn his property.

02/03/1892 Brockville Recorder Winchester

Yesterday, the C.P.R. commenced to run an elegant parlour car, the "Carillon," between Ottawa and Toronto on the day express trains, Noe. 9 and 19. This extra accommodation will be continued during the Parliamentary session, and probably throughout the busy summer season. (Branchline).

Monday 22/08/1892 Ottawa Journal Winchester Avonmore

Collision near Avonmore - see accident file. Also reported in the Citizen, same date.

Thursday 24/11/1892 Brockville Recorder Winchester Smiths Falls

Mr. Ahearn of the Electric Railway Co. of Ottawa, was in Smiths Falls on Thursday in consultation with Messrs. Frost & Wood about a proposed electric railway from the works to the C.P.R. station. The volume of their work has grown to such proportions that they are becoming tired of the expense and inconvenience of hauling everything on wagons and it is probable that within a year an electric railway will be in operation. Mr. Ahearn went over the ground with Mr. F.T. Frost.

Thursday 06/07/1893 Ottawa Journal Winchester Merrickville

A peculiar accident occurred near Merrickville Tuesday night. Two men named Thos. Code and C. Acton were driving across the railway track with some bags of flour when a train struck the vehicle, knocked Acton into the cattle guard, where he was found insensible, and landed Code on the cowcatcher, and in that perilous position he was carried into Smiths Falls. Some bags of flour and parts of the wagon were also found on the engine. It was a miraculous escape. Carleton Place Herald.

Thursday 24/08/1893 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

CPR Roundhouse Burned

Smiths Falls 24 August. About three o'clock this morning a disastrous fire broke out in the C.P.R. roundhouse here. From the first it looked serious and almost before the citizens or firemen could reach the spot it seemed impossible to check it. It raged fiercely for two or three hours but by an almost heroic effort one division of the building was saved.

There were six engines, including a mogul, in the burned portion and four of these were almost a total wreck, while the other two are pretty badly disabled. The origin of the fire is a complete mystery but an investigation is being held today. The loss on the engines, building and tools is estimated at about \$50,000.

Tuesday 29/08/1893 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Smiths Falls

The loss caused by the fire at the C.P.R. roundhouse at Smiths Falls was \$60,000. Six of the company's best engines, including three moguls, were destroyed as well as half the roundhouse.

Thursday 31/08/1893 Brockville Recorder Winchester Smiths Falls

The loss by the C.P.R. roundhouse fire at Smiths Falls is now placed at \$60,000.

Thursday 12/04/1894 Brockville Recorder Winchester Oxford Mills

A petition signed by eighty was presented to the Oxford council on Saturday requesting the powers that be grant \$250 to the C.P.R. for a station and platform to be erected at the crossing near Oxford Mills. P.R. McDonald presented the petition and said the railway authorities claimed that it would cost \$500 and if half that was presented the station would be erected.

06/02/1897 Brockville Recorder Winchester Monckland

When the C.P.R. express from Montreal was coming west last Saturday, a brakeman entered the car as usual and called out the name of the station before they reached Moncklands. He had no sooner yelled "Moncklands" than a girl passenger ran to the car door and took a flying shunt into a snow bank on the side of the track. The act was noticed and when the train stopped an engine was run back. They met the girl walking up the track. She was pretty badly cut up but still conscious of the fact she wanted to get off at Moncklands. It seems she had not travelled before and thought that was the regular way to stop.

Saturday 27/03/1897 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Smiths Falls

The Smiths Falls News says that the C.P.R. company are now collecting material for the erection of a large tea shed at Smiths Falls. The shed will probably be about 200x70 feet, and will be used for the storage of train loads of tea arriving there over their line from Vancouver, B.C. The tea will then be distributed from this point to all points of Eastern Canada and the United States.

Wednesday 08/12/1897 The Record, Chesterville Winchester Chesterville

Owing to the large amount of travel the CPR authorities have found it advisable to erect another tank at this station and a large number of men are busily engaged in laying the pipe to the tank. When it is completed they will have a tank at each end of the station and will often avoid delay with the freight trains at this station.

Tuesday 29/09/1898 The Record, Chesterville Winchester

Advertisement of a great excursion to Kingston on Tuesday Oct. 18 on the occasion of the consecration of the Most Reverend C.H. Gauthier DD. From stations between Dalhousie Mills and Merrickville.

Friday 27/10/1899 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls

The old coal chutes at the C.P.R. are being torn down and new ones erected nearer the round house. A lot of expensive improvements are being made about the C.P.R. yards here. - Smiths Falls News.

Friday 18/05/1900 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls

Work has been commenced on the foundation of the new C.P.R. offices. The new building is to be of wood, 40x60 feet, two storeys high and very ornate in appearance. It will be heated by steam from the engine house direct, and will be well ventilated, and lighted by electricity. On the ground floor there will be the telegraph office, trainmaster's offices, bridge and master builder's office and a conductor's room. Upstairs there will be the despatchers' room, the chief despatchers' office, the superintendent's offices and the divisional engineer's office. It will cost \$5,000 and will be ready for use in July. At the old tea shed there will be another platform, where all the trans-shipping will be done. It will be 500 feet long. The yard here will be enlarged by the addition of six new tracks, all south or west of any track at present in the yard. One track will be run on the outside of the new freight shed, that is, between the freight shed and Herbert street, close along the edge of Herbert street, and will be a great accommodation for freight handlers. It will be 880 feet long, and freight cars can be loaded or unloaded anywhere along it directly to or from the cars. In fact this can be done from both sides of the cars if Herbert street is graded six to eight feet wider to run right up to the new track. Among the six new tracks there is to be one to a machinery platform, where machinery will be loaded and unloaded. On the new track west of the freight shed, which will be known as the business track, there will be a large derrick erected for the handling of heavy freight. The appropriation for all this will be \$16,000. - Smiths Falls Record.

Thursday 02/05/1901 The Record, Chesterville Winchester De Beaujeu

The CPR has consented to pay the family of George Lumsden of Smiths Falls, the engineer, who died as a result of an accident to the Montreal express, on March 15, at Ste. Polycarpe, the sum of \$3,000 divided as follows: The widow \$500, eldest child \$600, second child \$850, youngest child \$1,050.

Tuesday 15/08/1901 The Record, Chesterville Winchester Winchester

A CPR surveyor was in Winchester last week laying out the line for a spur from the railway to Messrs. Eager and Sanderson's roller mill. The spur will be extended from the end of the Y in as direct a line as possible to a point east of the mill near Clarence Street where it will curve and run along the north side of the mill.

Thursday 15/08/1901 The Record, Chesterville Winchester Finch

The CPR Harvest Excursion to Manitoba Thursday and the expectation of high wages enticed a large crowd of muscular young men to take Horace Greeley's advice and go west. Among those who went were E. Hutt, W.D. McNaughton, D.J. McNaughton, W.Ault, J. McDermid, J. McRae and several others from stations along the O&NY.

Thursday 16/05/1902 The Record, Chesterville Winchester Smiths Falls

The crook that broke into Smiths Falls station Thursday afternoon certainly did not lack for nerve. In broad daylight, between the hours of 4 and 5 in the afternoon, the screen before the ticket window was pried off. This gave entrance to the till from which \$45 in change and bills was removed. A passenger seated in the ladies waiting room close by, heard the robber at work, but supposing him to be a workman, paid no attention. The slick visitor timed his visit well as there was a lull in business following the departure of the trains for Ottawa and Montreal. Nevertheless employees and others were passing to and fro in full view of the ticket window in the general waiting room where the crook secured entrance to the cash box. He left an old pocket knife behind him, and it was with this instrument he evidently did his work. The affair is being investigated.

Thursday 18/09/1902 The Record, Chesterville Winchester Winchester

CPR foreman brains Italian navvy.

One man dead and two seriously injured is the result of a fight which took place about two miles from Winchester on Saturday Sept. 6.

A gang of Italians were working on the main line of the CPR under the direction of Supt. A. Hart of Winchester. Some of the Italians had a grievance against Mr. Hart and in an altercation which took place they attacked him with daggers. Mr. Hart picked up a spade with which he hit one of the Italians over the head, making a fearful gash, and seriously injured another. He then made his escape but not before he had received a number of serious wounds. The wouldbe Italians were taken to Montreal Sat. night where one of them died. The other is not expected to live.

Also reported in the Ottawa Journal of 10 September 1902.

Monday 29/02/1904 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

Derailment to a colonist car. See accident file.

Thursday 23/11/1905 Chesterville Record Winchester Smiths Falls

Joseph St. Denis, of Carleton Place, a Canadian Pacific engineer was accidentally killed about nine o'clock Tuesday in the railway yard at Smiths Falls. It appears that in taking a switch the locomotive which St. Denis was driving jumped the track and went crosswise of it. The engineer was caught between it and the tender and crushed to death. The deceased had been in the employ of the CPR for about twelve years and was highly regarded. The cause of the accident is being investigated.

Thursday 08/02/1906 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

Frost and Wood plant destroyed by fire.

Thursday 12/07/1906 Chesterville Record Winchester Finch

A train containing 60 new cattle cars, just out of the shops, passed through Finch, westbound, last Saturday evening.

Friday 27/02/1907 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Kemptville

A gang of men is at work putting additions to the C.P.R. bridge near Kemptville necessary for the double tracking which is to be built between Smiths Falls and Montreal this summer.

Thursday 07/03/1907 Chesterville Record Winchester Mountain

Wreck at Mountain. There is already a good record of this in the accident reports. Details not taken - two long accounts.

Friday 19/04/1907 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls

The C.P.R. is to build an addition to their round-house at Smith's Falls. It is 508 feet around the curve at the back and 308 feet across the front. It will have 22 stalls for engines. The present one has 13, and the two combined will hold 35. At one end of the round-house a new machine shop, 40x90 feet will be built and alongside this there will be offices.

Thursday 13/06/1907 Chesterville Record Winchester

McKay and Wilford, railroad contractors are busy working at the contract they have of double tracking the CPR from Finch to Mountain Station. Of late the weather has somewhat interfered with their operations.

Thursday 09/04/1908 Chesterville Record Winchester Smiths Falls

Among the proposed extensions which the CP company have under consideration for Smiths Falls is the enlargement of the yard at an expenditure of about \$60,000, the construction of many additional tracks and the erection of a car shop and a large stores building. This work, it is understood, will be carried out this summer.

The new CPR coaling plant which has been in course of erection here for some months, was completed last week. It contains the most modern appliances for handling coal and is considered the best on the whole CPR system. A new coal dump has also recently been put in and this, at present, contains 50,000 tons. The chute is a massive looking structure seventy feet high and is in the form of two towers connected with a bridge overhead. In each tower are two "pockets" and a big dial on the front of each registers the quantity of coal taken out each time so the engineer has only to pull down a big spout and he knows exactly how much he has in his tender.

Thursday 07/05/1908 Chesterville Record Winchester Winchester

Two Italians working on the CPR construction were seriously and probably fatally injured at Winchester one night last week. About one hundred navies were returning to Chesterville on a string of nine hand-cars. They had gone but a short distance when the front car jumped the rails. Two of the men fell on the track and three cars passed over them.

Thursday 23/07/1908 Chesterville Record Winchester Kemptville

The new CPR double track between Smiths Falls and Kemptville was put in operation Monday. By the middle of August it is expected the line to Finch will be in use.

Thursday 26/08/1909 Chesterville Record Winchester

The first of the CPR harvest excursions from the east has arrived at Winnipeg, taking in four thousand harvest hands. There was an agreeable absence of the disorderly disturbance that marked these excursions through Ontario in recent years. This was owing to a new arrangement, the rear car on the train being occupied by special service officers and was used as a temporary jail. All disturbers of the peace were promptly arrested, handcuffed and placed in the temporary cells. After half a dozen were in the cells is served as a wholesome warning to the others.

Thursday 13/01/1910 Chesterville Record Winchester

The CPR double track between Smiths Falls and Montreal is now in general use. Parts of the system were used by freight trains during the summer but commencing on Wednesday last the passengers began using the double line, and now the whole system of double tracking between Smiths Falls and Montreal is in operation.

Wednesday 09/03/1910 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

Smiths Falls. It has been rumored for some time that the C.P.R. train dispatchers were to be removed from Smiths Falls and sent to either Ottawa or Montreal, but it is now definitely settled that they are to remain here. The line between Smiths Falls and Chalk River and the line from Ottawa to Brockville has been added to their territory which hitherto had only been the line between Smiths Falls and Montreal. The new order will go into effect on March 14th.

Thursday 02/05/1912 Chesterville Record Winchester Finch

The CPR are negotiating the sale of a gravel pit from Mr. H. McMillan.

Saturday 18/01/1913 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

The C.P.R. coal dump was destroyed by fire at 7 o'clock last evening and a large quantity of coal was consumed. The loss will necessitate the C.P.R. loading their engines by hand until a temporary structure is built.

13/01/1914 Rideau Record Winchester Smiths Falls

Runaway Engine

A runaway engine caused great excitement for a while in the CPR yards Sunday afternoon. In some way the engine got started at the roundhouse and under a full head of steam dashed down the track.

The tracks were clear and the engine rushed away gaining at every yard. When it came to the east yard over half a mile from the roundhouse a switch happened to be turned and the engine tore into a siding and hit the line of empties standing there. The first three were totally wrecked but the engine was stopped in its mad career.

The wrecking crew were called out and had to spend most of the night clearing up.

15/01/1914 Rideau Record

Winchester

Smiths Falls

Cat In Car

The CPR does not carry very much freight for nothing but it carried a cat all the way from Nova Scotia this week and no bill of lading could be found for it. A wholesale grocery firm in town received a carload of goods from Nova Scotia yesterday that had been nine days on the road and when the car door was opened a handsome big cat was found inside. Notwithstanding the intense cold of the past few days and that it had been nine days without anything to eat or drink it was in fairly good condition. It was taken to the warehouse and is now living on cream and crackers.

Tuesday

03/02/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Smiths Falls

A Man and a Boy

Last Friday noon the C.P.R. station was the scene of a little excitement, when a boy from Ottawa who was in charge of Mr. John Keane Children's Aid Officer, escaped from custody. It appears that the lad had been an inmate of the St. Johns's Industrial School at East Toronto, and had run away from that institution on two different occasions. This time he was being returned to the school. As the officer and boy were about to board the train the lad while the officer was completing the ascent on the other. Crawling under a freight train he completed the discomfiture of the officer, who could not follow a thirteen-year-old lad through devious paths uncertain. C.P.R. constable McCormick assisted in searching for the fugitive, and the town constables also got after him but he was a slippery customer and got a clean get away.

Thursday

19/02/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Mountain

The Late Robert Grant

There is very general regret in town because of the death of engineer Robert Grant who was killed in the C.P.R. wreck near Mountain on Tuesday. He lived here for many years and was known as the jolly good-natured Scotchman. He had been 34 years with the C.P.R. and would have retired soon on a pension. A year or two ago he moved to Montreal and to his house there his body taken but will be brought to Smiths Falls on the afternoon train for burial. Mrs. Grant and family have the deepest sympathy of their friends here.

26/02/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Gone to Ottawa

It took three special trains to carry the delegation to Ottawa today that went to see the Government about making the St. Lawrence an ocean waterway and to urge upon it the necessity of granting aid to electric railways and the Hydro Electric commission. The delegation came from hundreds of places in Ontario, chiefly in Western Ontario, and numbered about one thousand. The three special trains went thorough Smiths Falls this morning at 3:30, 5:45 and 6:20 o'clock. Mayor Marsh and Mr. A.B. Scott, President of the Board of Trade, went from Smiths Falls.

19/03/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Smiths Falls

Another Blizzard

Weather conditions should be better now since March got another blizzard worked out of its system last night and today. It was not so violent a storm as the one that ushered in the month, but it has affected railway traffic more than it did. The chief trouble on the C.P.R. is at Myrtle where a number of cuts are filled with snow and sand through which no train or snowplow could make its way. They had to be shoveled out and this has held up all trains from the west. Those due here at 4, 5 and 6 o'clock this morning did not reach here until this afternoon coming through at 1:30, 2 and 2:30. Owing chiefly to delayed connections at Newport, the train from the east due at 1:05 is over two hours late. All the locals got through pretty well on time.

24/03/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Smiths Falls

Hand Cut Off

Harry Flowers, a workman at the C.P.R. shops was terribly injured on Friday. With other men, he was engaged in the work of repairing a car and had it raised on a jack wick slipped and allowed the car to come down on his hands. Before he could be released the car had to be jacked up again. It was found then that his right hand had been completely severed at the wrist and his left hand badly smahed but an effort is being made to save the latter. He is in the Public Hospital.

31/03/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Killed on The Track

A man named Oullest was killed on the C.P.R. track at Glen Norman Friday morning. He was standing at the crossing watching an eastbound freight train go by and when it passed he started to cross without seeing the morning express coming up on the other track. He walked right into the rushing locomotive and was instantly killed.

07/04/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Smiths Falls

Thrown From Engine

Mr. David Glazier, one of the best known and oldest engineers on the C.P.R. was the victim of a peculiar accident on Saturday morning. He was running one of the shunting engines in the yard and was looking out of the cab window for signals when another shunter, which was following the one Glazier was running, came along and ran into the first engine with such force that the shock threw Glazier out of the cab window. He fell on a pile of rails and was picked up with his right leg broken and was otherwise badly shaken up. He was taken to the General Hospital.

09/04/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Smiths Falls

O.R.C. Ball

The Order of Railway Conductors have right of way in social functions on Monday night with their ball in the town hall. Arrangements have been under way for some weeks and everything is now in readiness. It is sure to be a pleasant affair.

09/04/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Smiths Falls

Public Hospital

The Board of Directors desire to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of two hundred dollars being the annual grant from the C.P.R. towards maintenance.

28/04/1914

Rideau Record

Winchester

Smiths Falls

The C.P. Vic's

At a well attended meeting Saturday evening in Clark's block, the football enthusiasts of the mechanical and car department of the C.P.P. organized a Football Club, and christened it the Canadian Pacific Victorias (C.P. Vic's) The following officers were elected.

President - D. W. Watson

Vice " - L. E. Bradley

Sec. Treasurer - Wm. G. Watson

Captain - Robert Henderson

Sub-Captain - Jas. Johnston

Managing Committee - Jas. Grant (Chairman), D. W. Stevenson Line men - John Reid, C. E. Watson.

Playing colors for the club have not been decided on, but it is expected that they will come to some understanding at their next meeting.

The committees of the different clubs should make some move now towards forming a town league, as football is a good clean sport and should get good support in Smiths Falls.

28/04/1914 Rideau Record Winchester Smiths Falls

New Trains

Two new daily trains between Montreal and Winnipeg were put on by the C.P.R. yesterday, making two fast daily trains each way between the east and the west.

05/05/1914 Rideau Record Winchester Smiths Falls

Town Council Meeting excerpts

"Moved by Mr. Gould seconded by Mr. Ridewood that the application of Mr. Forbes C.P.R. engineer for approval of plan regarding the laying of 6 inch water pipe on McCann street for the purpose of fire protection to the C.P.R. property be referred to town engineer."

19/05/1914 Rideau Record Winchester Smiths Falls

Council Meeting Excerpts

Mr. Ridewood asked if anything had been done by the committee appointed to confer with the C. P. R. relative to the draining of the Atironto ditch. He thought it would be a good idea for the Council to go in with the C. P. R. in the matter of drainage. Atironto had not even got a sewer let alone water and they had been paying who had all the facilities. That part of the town should get some consideration.

Mr. Gould said he didn't think Atironto had been neglected purposely by any Council. They had been waiting on the C. P. R. to see what layout they would make so that the work would not have to be done twice. When that was done and the new subway built then they could consider the improvements for Atironto and do the work as it should be done.

Mr. Boyd didn't see how they were going to pump the water out of the subway.

Mr. Gould said the C. P. R. had undertaken to pump and keep the road dry in the subway and it was up to them to do it.

Mr. Davidson said the whole thing in a nutshell was that the C. P. R. wanted Council to accept a plan of pumping the water into the town sewer and the committee would not accept of it. He would like the authority of the Council as to how far they could go in the matter.

Moved by Mr. Gould seconded by Reeve Peatson that the application of the C. P. R. for the installation of a water pipe on McCann street for fire protection purposes be accepted.

02/06/1914 Renfrew Mercury Winchester Smiths Falls

A Happy Crowd

No happier crowd has ever been at the C. P. R. station in Smiths Falls than the salvation Army men and women who were here last Thursday morning en route to England. There were 150 of them and they traveled by special train. They stopped here 15 minutes and many of them were on the platform and in the restaurant. They were all in high spirits at the prospect of the trip and the happy holiday ahead of them. Many of them returning to the old homes in England for the first time since they had come away. They had been planning the journey for months and looking forward to it with great pleasure. Their train swept them away from here amid the waving of hats and the calls for a safe voyage. That night at 2 O'clock the ship on which they had taken passage was sunk in the St. Lawrence and nearly all the happy crowd were drowned. Commissioner Rees, his wife and children were all lost. It was one of the saddest things of the very sad disaster.

Lost on the Empress

Among those lost on the Empress of Ireland, were Mr. F. Hamilton, who was ticket agent for the C. P. R. at Smiths Falls for about a month at the time of the strike, and Miss Annie Swindlehurst whose home was here a few years ago. Both were employed on the Empress.

Thursday 12/07/1917 Chesterville Record Winchester Apple Hill

The unusual occurrence of a birth on a passenger train happened yesterday morning on the early train to Montreal. At Apple Hill the train was stopped and the medical man of the place hunted up and brought to the train and taken to Montreal, where an ambulance met the mother and babe and took them to hospital.

Thursday 19/09/1918 Chesterville Record Winchester Chesterville

The CPR in the process of widening all the cuts on this division intend, when removing the earth from the cut just west of the village to build up the lawn from the west end of the station out to Main Street. This will make a decided improvement in the appearance of the surroundings and the first impression given visitors will be a pleasurable one.

So much is the business at the CPR station increasing that work is in progress for putting in an additional long siding on the south side of the main line from the freight shed east. The Maple Leaf Condensery has also applied for another siding to their factory to facilitate the loading and unloading of their cars.

Thursday 26/09/1918 Chesterville Record Winchester Bedell

The CPR is about to commence the erection of a new station at Kempton. It is to be built on the corner opposite to the former location of the Deegan House.

Thursday 19/12/1918 Chesterville Record Winchester Chesterville

A peculiar fire happened in the station yards yesterday morning about five o'clock, when all the wood work in the cab of engine No. 24 was destroyed. For the last couple of weeks the engine, which was on a work train, has been laid up here at night in charge of a watchman while the crew has slept at the hotel.

Yesterday morning apparently after the watchman had put in the first fire to get the engine ready for the road, he must have left a hot poker where it set the wood work afire after he had left the engine as he was unable to account for it.

Thursday 16/01/1919 Chesterville Record Winchester Chesterville

A practical joker tied up the CPR at Chesterville on Friday evening, about the time the season's first big storm was raging. Some one, whose identity is not revealed, announced at the station that Tom Valley had been run over down at the bridge. Of course every one was off like a shot to see if anything could be done for Tom. An engine was quickly cut off a train in the yard and sent east to render assistance and find out the circumstances of the accident. When the party reached the pump house, they were surprised to find the genial Tom sitting comfortably reading the paper. The joker had not taken time to announce that Tom was under the bridge when the train passed over him.

Friday 07/02/1919 Arnprior Watchman Winchester Smiths Falls

Mr. G.T. Martin, Smiths Falls architect, has been commissioned by the C.P.R. to prepare plans for the erection of a new ice house, 50x150 feet, in Smiths Falls. The building is to be rushed to completion in time to be filled with ice this season.

Thursday 28/08/1919 Chesterville Record Winchester Smiths Falls

At 12:45 Monday morning the train bearing His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales arrived at the Smiths Falls CPR depot and after a stop of one hour to change engines and replenish the store of ice and water, continued on its way to Toronto via the Lake Shore Line.

Notwithstanding the lateness of the hour a large crowd had assembled at the station in the hope of catching a glimpse of the heir to the British throne. They were not disappointed in this, as he not only stepped from the train but addressed a few words to them from the platform of his car "Killarney".

Engine number 2225, flying two flags upon its buffer beam, upon which was inscribed the Royal coat of arms, drew the special train. When it came to a stand the big crowd pressed about the last coach "Killarney" in which they knew His Royal Highness was travelling. There was little hope that they would have an opportunity of seeing him as it was presumed that he would have retired.

It appears however that the Prince had left instructions with his attendants to inform him of his arrival in the province of Ontario and upon being appraised that his train was standing at the first CPR divisional point in the banner province, he arose and descended to the station platform amidst tremendous cheers from the loyal people who thronged about him.

He lit a cigarette and for ten minutes paced up and down the platform, accompanied by an attendant, smiling and shaking hands in a charmingly informal manner with the eager people who pressed about him in their endeavour to give him assurances of their attachment to his royal father and himself.

More.

At 1.45 his train moved out of the station.

Thursday 06/11/1919 Chesterville Record Winchester Chesterville

Quite a number of people gathered at the station on Sunday evening at eight o'clock on the chance that the Prince of Wales' train would stop and they would get a look at our future King but there was nothing doing.

Thursday 05/05/1921 Chesterville Record Winchester Chesterville

Sunday morning shortly after midnight a train consisting of eighteen express cars passed through this point loaded with booze, getting away from the new Quebec liquor law which went into force on May 1st. The shipment was unloaded at Smiths Falls where it is kept guarded by a special squad of Express Co's constables.

Thursday 14/06/1923 Chesterville Record Winchester Chesterville

The CPR has made considerable change at the station by the removal of the freight shed from the site it has occupied since the road was built to a new site on the north side of the tracks east almost to the stock pens. The convenience of the public does not seem to have entered into consideration when the removal was planned.

Thursday 08/11/1928 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Chesterville

Chestervilleman killed instantly

Angus Price hit by giant locomotive despite foreman's brave effort to save him.

Chesterville. Angus Price, a sectionman employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, was instantly killed today when he was struck by the largest locomotive in the British Empire, the Canadian Pacific's new 3100 type, plying on the Montreal-Smiths Falls division. The victim was 63 years of age and leaves a widow and four children, all in Chesterville.

Mr. Price was at work surfacing the tracks near the station when the locomotive pulling a train of freight cars approached. Apparently Mr. Price did not see the train or hear the warning sounded by the whistle. Other sectionmen and townspeople heard the warning. Mr. D. Lomond, section foreman, bravely attempted to hurl the man from the tracks but could not reach Mr. Price before the engine. The train was in charge of Engineer Levi Young and Conductor O.C. Rabb.

Coroner Dr. McLaughlin of Chesterville and Dr. A.B. Clayton of Winchester were called. When picked up Mr. Price's leg was amputated above the ankle and his whole body was badly injured. An inquest will be held Saturday afternoon at 1.30. Funeral arrangements have not been made.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=0G8uAAAIBAJ&sjid=p9kFAAAAIBAJ&pg=7020,2088304&dq=train+railway+railroad&hl=en>

Tuesday 13/11/1928 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Chesterville

Chesterville. Attach no blame for the death of Section Hand

The inquest into the death of Angus Price C.P.R. section man, who was killed on the C.P.R. tracks at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, November 8, by engine No. 3100, on a westbound freight running between Montreal and Smiths Falls, was conducted by Coroner P. McLaughlin of Winchester, at the town hall here today. The jury selected were: F. McCloskey, foreman; M. Shaver, Geo. Barckley, Wesley Hamilton, Andrew Wilson, Isaac Garrow, W.H. Casselman, Jas Masterton, Wesley Fulton, Geo. Hunt, and James McAvoy, M. Marcellus.

Following is the verdict rendered by the jury: "We, your jurors, empanelled for the purpose of hearing the evidence and making a finding as to the cause of the death of the late Angus Price of Chesterville, submit as our verdict the following: That the late Angus Price came to his death while performing his regular duties as a section hand on the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks just east of the station at Chesterville, Ontario, about 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, November 8, 1928. That the evidence submitted indicates that every possible warning was given by the train crew and that the emergency brakes were applied at the first indication of danger and that they were one hundred per cent efficient; that everything that could have been done to save him was done by his fellow section men: that your jurors attach no blame to anyone: that there is nothing in the evidence to satisfactorily explain why the late Angus Price should not have heeded the warnings given him.

The funeral of the late Mr. Price was held on Friday afternoon at the United church, Chesterville, and was largely attended. The pastor, Rev. R.E. Newman, was assisted by Rev. Mr. Orak and Rev. B. Roberts. The choir was under the direction of organist, Mr. P.G. Hewitt, Mrs. George Merkley rendering a solo. Interment was made in the Maple Ridge cemetery.

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=0m8uAAAIBAJ&sjid=p9kFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2833,2727152&dq=train+railway+railroad&hl=en>

Monday 04/02/1929 Chronicle-Telegraph Quebec Winchester Smiths Falls

Young Brakeman Meets With Fatal Accident

Smith's Falls Ont. Feb. 4 Lloyd Maxwell, 21 year old brakeman for the Canadian Pacific Railway was fatally injured in the local yards Saturday night when he fell before the wheels of a freight car. The young man apparently slipped when he leaped from his perch on the car to turn a switch. The front truck of the car passed over his body.

Wednesday 02/04/1930 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Smiths Falls

Man is killed as train strikes rig

Believe victim to be George Condie of Rosedale, Near Smiths Falls

Terribly cut and mangled, a man believed to be George Condie, of Rosedale, four miles from Smiths Falls, was killed about 12.15 this afternoon when he was struck by a fast Montreal-Toronto train at a crossing a few miles south of Smiths Falls. The body of the unfortunate man was found on the cow-catcher of the C.P.R. engine when it entered Smiths Falls at 12.20 o'clock this afternoon.

Bits of harness and the flesh of a horse also upon the cow-catcher of the engine made it apparent that the man had been driving over a crossing when the speeding train struck him. Coroner Dr. C.L.B. Stammers was called immediately and the body was removed to a local undertaking parlor. An inquest will be held probably this evening, it was stated.

Wednesday 27/08/1930 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Chesterville

Gerald Cairns, 25, son of John P. Cairns of Chesterville was killed instantly about 4.30 a.m. this morning when he was struck on the bridge over the Nation River, two miles east of Chesterville, by a westbound C.P.R. freight.

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http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=qDE0AAAAIABJ&sjid=T_UIAAAAIABJ&pg=4403,2143824&dq=train++railway++railroad&hl=en

Saturday 16/10/1937 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Apple Hill

Apple Hill in Glengarry county, was once known as "Glen Munro" and was almost definitely named "Kennedy," in fact it was once unofficially entered in the records by the latter name and only the modesty of a man in himself and pride in his product changed it.

When the short line of the C.P.R. was projected through Glengarry in the eighties the late Alexander Kennedy, a well-to-do farmer situated five miles north of Martintown, conceived it to be a matter of great community benefit could the railway depot be established in the vicinity of his farm. He consequently offered the railway company a right of way across his property on this condition and the company in turn gave him the opportunity and privilege of naming it. People were already calling the place "Glen Munro" and "Munro's Mills" because of the presence of so many farmers of that name in the vicinity: the C.P.R. were tentatively referring to it as "Kennedy" but the fine old pioneer was prouder of the fruit atop the sun-kissed elevation on his farm than he was of his name. Thus it was that Mr. Kennedy submitted "Apple Hill" and that's what it is today, it was euphonious and full of meaning and was promptly accepted by the nomenclature board of the C.P.R. It's a fascinating little village: the depot, homes and schools are definitely above the average.

Saturday 26/02/1938 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Chesterville

Railway honours Chesterville boy for his alertness.

On Thursday morning of this week, one of Chesterville's 12-year-old citizens, in the person of Eric "Dickie" Fyke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fyke, was pleasantly surprised when W.C. Beck, divisional superintendent, and John R. Caswell, divisional engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Smiths Falls, made a special trip to Chesterville to extend and to present to him a tangible token of the company's feelings towards an alert Boy Scout.

"Dickie" was on his way home from school at noon on January 19th last taking a short cut across the tracks near the rink, when his progress was blocked by a passing eastbound freight train. As the engine passed over the switch, "Dickie" heard what he described as "a sound like a rifle shot." After the train had passed he investigated and found a broken switch which he immediately reported to Bob Ouderkirk, sectionman.

Repairs were promptly made and the incident reported to the officials who, after investigation, made the award of a ten-dollar bill to "Dickie," who is a member of the 1st Chesterville Troop of Boy Scouts.

The ceremony took place at the Public school. R.C. Dillabough, principal, called all the pupils together and introduced the visitors who made the presentation to Eric, and who also called Irwin Stata, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Strata, who was with Eric, to the front and took his name saying he too would likely receive recognition.

Tuesday 01/04/1941 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Inkerman

http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=U_cuAAAAIABJ&sjid=2tsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6447,93847&dq=railway++railroad++train++cpr&hl=en

Tuesday 23/09/1941 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Smiths Falls

Perth trainman's death accidental
Smiths Falls, Sept 23.

Cleveland Riley, 42-year-old Perth brakeman who was instantly killed in a railway mishap here a week ago came to his death as the result of an accident with no blame attached to any party, a coroner's jury decided at an inquest held here tonight with Coroner Dr. H.A. Whitcomb presiding.

There were no actual witnesses to the accident. Riley was employed as front end brakeman on eastbound freight train No. 902 which was being made up in the yard.

Engineer Joseph Andre, Smiths Falls, said the deceased had thrown a switch and then given the "highball" to proceed. He knew nothing of the accident until some moments later when a yard fireman told him of Riley's death.

Ralph Barker, yard fireman, said he saw Riley throw the switch and walk towards the locomotive. When it had passed he saw the man lying on the track and had shouted to other railroaders.

Thursday 08/03/1945 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Smiths Falls

Smiths Falls man in critical condition.

Suffering multiple injuries which include a fractured leg, arm, jaw, crushed face and a probable fracture of a skull, condition of C.P.R., Constable Ernest Parker of Smiths Falls was described today as being critical by Civic hospital authorities. He is being attended by his physician, Dr. George Armstrong. He was admitted to hospital yesterday afternoon following an accident at the CPR station at Smiths Falls.

According to witnesses, Constable Parker was crushed between a heavy crate containing a live bull and the station wall when the crate slipped while being unloaded from a train. The crate was said to have toppled after being shifted, catching the man as he attempted to move out of the way.

Saturday 06/10/1945 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Chesterville

Party returning from rodeo hit.

District persons perish at rail crossing when automobile struck by freight train.

Six Ottawa district residents, four men and two women, were killed this morning at Chesterville railway crossing when the car in which they were returning to their homes from the rodeo at the Auditorium was struck by an eastbound freight train.

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Mr. Beckstead was driver of the car in which all were killed. Police believe that Mr. Beckstead was under the impression that the "wig-wag" railway warning sign which was in motion at the time of the accident was for a westbound freight train stopped at the Chesterville station to take on water and he did not see the eastbound freight.

On impact the two girls and Mr. Irving were thrown clear of the automobile, which was dragged a quarter of a mile along the track carrying the bodies of Mr. Beckstead, Harold Ouderkirk, and the yet unidentified man.

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<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=ziQzAAAAIABJ&sjid=BtwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2116,1061071&dq=railway++railroad++train++cpr&hl=en>

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=ziQzAAAAIABJ&sjid=BtwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2737,1278318&dq=railway++railroad++train++cpr&hl=en>

Two men killed by train near Merrickville.
Struck by an eastbound CPR train this morning, Albert Martin and Ernest Janick of Merrickville, were instantly killed. The men, it was reported, had walked about a mile from the village along the tracks to visit trap lines. They were struck from the rear by the eastbound No.30 train in charge of Conductor H. Moulton and Engineer W.J, Wilson, both of Smiths Falls.
Train rerouted
A delayed train near Bedell was a contributory cause of the fatality, it was learned from Smiths Falls today.
Engine trouble delayed the train at Bedell and the east bound train was rerouted around the stalled train and sent out anog the west bound trackon which both Martin and Janick were walking.
The men, trappers, were on their way out to their traplines and evicently, did not hear the approaching train until it was too late.

May permit moving of CPR freights.
Smiths Falls. Picket lines of locomotive firemen were expected to yield today long enough to permit the transfer of two freight cars in the strike-bound Canadian Pacific Railway yards here to a track of the Canadian National Railways, a half a mile away.
The operation, probably unique in the three-day strike that has resulted in a nation-wide shut-down of the CPR, had the approval of the company and the railway union involved.
On the two cars was a shipment of materials needed by Ontario Hydro at Cornwall which had been tied up here in transit from Toronto when the strike started on Wednesday.
Included was a draft tube liner, in two sections of 11 tons each, which will be installed in a Cornwall powerhouse.
Striker in crew.
One of the striking firemen was to be in the cab of a yard engine which was to move the cars to an interchange track to be picked up by a CNR freight train.
Also in the special crew would be an engineer, a foreman and two yardmen.
The CNR was scheduled to take the cars to Cornwall via Napanee tonight.
Roy Allport, chairman of Local 391 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers here, had charge of the movement on behalf of the brotherhoods.
Mr. Allport was permitted to cross firemen's picket lines Friday morning to discuss the arrangement with A.W. Harris, superintendent of the CPR Smiths Falls Division.
Need Not Urgent.
An Ontario Hydro official at Cornwall told The Citizen yesterday that the huge steel liner was not urgently needed but its arrival would be welcomed at the project where its installation was being awaited.
Concreting and turbine-erecting crews at the site were not being held up by the delay in shipment of the liner at the present time, he said, but indicated any prolonged delay would interfere with work progress.
He said the equipment had been ordered from English Electric at Toronto.
Moving the heavy cylinder from Smiths Falls by trucks would involve serious hazards. A road would have to be built across the CPR yards here. It was considered possible that the trucks, once loaded and on their way by road, might encounter bridges that would not hold the load.
The liner is nearly 14 feet high and almost 24 feet at its widest.
Accompanied by a photo with the following caption:
There was a good possibility that striking railway union men would relent long enough today to permit this vital seaway equipment to be moved from Smiths Falls to the St. Lawrence. If this is done, the two cars shown would be the only CPR freight cars turning wheels in Canada. The 22-ton draft tube liner, in two sections, were destined for the Ontario Hydro powerhouse at Cornwall. CPR crews would move the cars a half-mile from Smiths Falls to CNR lines.

Man killed when auto rams train.
Smiths Falls - A Toronto man died, his companion was critically injured and an alert head-end brakeman averted a possible second serious accident in a train-car crash at Merrickville, 12 miles east of Smiths Falls at 7.25 this morning.
Dead is George Eddy, 61, of 818 Ossington Avenue, Toronto who died in a Lannin Ambulance en route from Merrickville to St. Francis Hospital in Smiths Falls. Critically injured is Lawrence Steele, 40, of Mountain Grove Village, 50 miles west of Smiths Falls on Highway 7. Mr. Steele suffering severe head and chest injuries was transferred to Ottawa Civic Hospital from St. Francis.
The accident occurred on a gravelled level crossing over double tracks just east of the Merrickville station. It was the first fatality here in 50 years although there is no wig-wag signal.
Mr. Steele is believed to have been driving the 1953 model station-wagon when the accident happened.
He apparently tried desperately to brake it but the vehicle crashed into the side of the west-bound freight. It spun around after the impact and came to rest upright, partly on the eastern set of tracks.
Head-end brakeman Richard Drew of Smiths Falls, aboard the west bound train involved in the crash, leaped from the train and raced up the tracks to flag down approaching east bound CPR passenger train No. 24.
It ground to a stop only a few feet from where the wrecked station wagon straddled the rails.
First on the scene was George Pitschke, 45, who was enroute to Smiths Falls with a load of milk. He saw the freight stop, an unusual occurrence, and investigated. "I saw only one man and he was bleeding. All I could do was get a doctor called," he said.
Dr. A.M. Barr of Merrickville was summoned and ordered dead and injured removed to hospital.
Engineer John Deegan and conductor George Baxter, both of Smiths Falls, were in charge of the west bound freight. Conductor Jack Dawson and Engineer Harry Beckett, also of Smiths Falls, handled the east bound passenger.
Merrickville Constable Mathew Hayes investigated.
From Bruce Chapman CPR #2462 was on train 24.

3 train robbers at large.
Smiths Falls - Police are still searching for the piggy-back train robber and his two accomplices who robbed an express truck on the Montreal-Toronto CPR express train of furs valued at thousands of dollars.
The three made off into the woods near the Ontario Hospital School Wednesday after being spotted by CPR police when they tossed the furs from the train as it drew to a stop at a crossing near the station.
Some \$3,000 worth of furs have been recovered where they were abandoned by the thieves, CPR officials said, pending a check up, they could not fix the value of the goods stolen.
Tossed out cases.
One of the men boarded the train while it was being made up in Montreal. As the train stopped he tossed off five suitcases filled with valuable furs and other clothing to two accomplices who were waiting on the highway.
Police have been searching for the three since that time but as yet no arrests have been made and CPR investigators said this morning there were no further developments.

Tuesday 03/07/1962 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Green Valley

Three teenagers were killed when their car struck a CPR freight train and was dragged half a mile early Sunday morning at Green valley four miles south of Alexandria.

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Ontario Provincial Police said the car was second in line waiting for a west-bound freight train to pass the crossing. After it passed, the car swung out from behind the first car and smashed into the side of a second freight travelling east.

There is wig-wag signal at the crossing, but the youths apparently thought it was working because of the westbound freight.

Tuesday 09/04/1963 Ottawa Journal Winchester Smiths Falls

SMITHS FALLS (Staff) -Veteran Canadian Pacific Railwayman - many of them now on retirement, wept openly unashamed here Sunday as they gazed upon the last two steam locomotives to be built by the company in 1949.

The locomotives - both oil burners used by the CPR in the mountains of Western Canada -stopped over in Smiths Falls enroute to the Canadian Railway Historical Association's Museum in Delson, Que.

The engines, 5468 and 5935, came-east from Edmonton and Winnipeg. Hundreds of local residents couldn't resist the opportunity to get perhaps their last look at a steam locomotive as they made the journey to the CPR's freight shed to view the old "iron horses."

For many of the children, who were allowed to get in the cabs of the engines, it was their first glimpse of a real steam engine.

The 5935 was the last steam engine to be built by the CPR. On hand to outline the history of the engines for the spectators were John Frayne, Al Barr, Dave Nickerson, Herb McEwan, all Ottawa members of the CRHA.

Friday 21/06/1974 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Apple Hill

Cornwall. The derailment of a westbound Canadian Pacific freight train Thursday left 29 cars, including one containing a shipment of chlorine gas, scattered along the track.

The accident occurred just east of the village of Apple Hill, 20 miles northeast of here, about noon. The cause and extent of damage are still under investigation by CP authorities.

Canadian Industries Limited in Cornwall sent an emergency team to the scene to determine whether the tank car containing the chlorine gas was leaking or damaged.

The chlorine gas was being shipped by Standard Chemical of Beauharnois, Que.

Chemical producers across the province have a co-operative agency called the Transportation Emergency Assistance Plan, to help out in situations where there is a potential chemical hazard to people and the environment.

An emergency team from Beauharnois later rerailed the tank containing chlorine and sent it back to Standard Chemical where it will undergo further tests for any damage.

Approximately half of the derailed cars were empty while others contained coke and lumber.

A CP official said that while repairs were being carried out, trains from Montreal would be rerouted through Ottawa and Smiths Falls. It is expected that more than 400 feet of new track will be laid by 3 p.m. today.

The 117-car train left the track about 50 feet from a railway crossing where five CP workmen had been reconstructing the crossing.

The train, out of Montreal, was bound for Toronto with a stop in Smiths Falls.

Tuesday 11/10/1977 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Monkland

Heat detectors could have averted crash. (with aerial photo)

Heat detectors to be installed next month might have prevented Saturday's 43-car derailment near Cornwall, Canadian Pacific officials said Monday.

A CP spokesman said a broken axle on one of the freight train's 111 boxcars was responsible for Saturday's pile-up on the Montreal-Toronto main line at Monkland.

Three hundred feet of track were 'torn up as boxcars crashed into each other and one was thrown in the air. All but 18 of the cars were empty and no one was injured.

An official at the scene who examined the axle said it apparently broke after overheating.

"The roller bearings run hot at times and they sometimes break."

"We're installing six new hot-box detectors between Montreal and Smiths Falls," said the official, who asked not to be named. The sensing devices would definitely detect an overheating axle, he said.

Last November, 22 cars of a 44-car Toronto-bound CP freight train went off the tracks in the same area. No one was injured.

Gordon Lark, CP's chief train dispatcher in Smiths Falls, said Monday that CP decided last spring to install the detectors.

"But they had to order parts from the United States, so they won't be operational until about November," he said.

The derailment, shortly after 10 a.m. Saturday, left dozens of boxcars strewn on either side of the east and westbound tracks about 300 feet north of Monkland, a village of 150. It's 65 kilometres southeast of Ottawa, just above Cornwall.

CP Rail said freight cars littered across Highway 43 were cleared with bulldozers and cranes by work crews sent from Montreal and Toronto.

The highway was reopened by early afternoon.

Service was restored, but running slowly, on the eastward line early Monday morning. CP predicted the westward line would be usable by the end of today.

Of the 43 cars involved in the pileup, three were carrying powdered milk and one contained charcoal bricquets, CP said. The rest were empty wheat boxcars.

Monkland resident Gudrun Spor-ring told a reporter she was at her front door checking the thermometer when she saw the train passing.

"All of a sudden I heard a grinding crash and one of the cars rose in the air and settled on top of the others. It looked just like a pile of matchboxes."

Another resident, Melvin Massis, was watching TV when his house started shaking.

"I looked out and I saw the front axle of the wheels on the car coming off," he recalled.

"The cars all started piling up, one on top of the other. One of them went up about 30 feet. It just seemed as if someone was lifting it up slowly."

The cost of the derailment will not be known for "a week to 10 days," said the CP spokesman.

An investigation of the accident will be conducted by safety officials from CP and the Canadian Transport Commission.

Monday

12/07/1982

Ottawa Citizen

Winchester

Mountain

CP Train derailment near Mountain cuts Toronto-Montreal line for a day. (with picture)

MOUNTAIN, Ont. All freight traffic on the Toronto-Montreal rail corridor was paralysed for 30 hours on the weekend by a train derailment in this quiet Eastern Ontario town.

A Canadian Pacific railcar carrying wax plunged off the track and burst into flames while travelling 80 km/h about 7 a.m. Saturday.

The 24-car pile-up burned until early Sunday morning on the outskirts of Mountain, 50 kilometres southwest of Ottawa.

There were no injuries and damage to local property was minimal. CP spokesman said no cause has been determined. The derailment is under investigation.

Had the cars derailed seconds earlier, the crash could have destroyed the home of Arnold and Marion Johnston, who were sleeping at the time.

The train overturned only 20 metres from the Johnston home, leaving the yard and garden littered with boulders and pieces of metal.

A steel railway shack was thrown 30 metres, coming to rest 10 metres from the farmhouse.

Windows were cracked and dirt was thrown into the house. There was also minor damage to the farm on the other side of the tracks.

"Another couple of hundred feet and it would have taken off the north side of the house," said Marion Johnston.

The derailment cancelled the Johnstons' plans for Saturday. They were expecting a large turn-out of friends and relatives to help with a hay harvest.

The Johnston's son Steve, who was in the barn milking cows at the time of the accident, said: "You'd swear you were in a war."

He said the boxcars just continued to pile up in the midst of flame and flying debris.

The 81-car train was carrying grain, general merchandise and automotive parts, along with the flammable wax substance, from Toronto to Montreal.

There was no toxic material on the train, which was travelling at two-thirds of its freight capacity.

The derailed cars on the west-bound line were removed and 150 metres of track were replaced, restoring west-bound service Sunday morning. East-bound freight traffic remains at a standstill until further repairs and clearing are done.

Six firetrucks from the Mountain County, Kemptville, and the Winchester fire departments tried to control the fierce blaze throughout the day and most of the night

15/08/1984

Ottawa Citizen

Winchester

Chesterville

CHESTERVILLE Local rail traffic is being re-routed through Ottawa today while CPR workers clear away wreckage following a spectacular 25-car derailment in Chester -ville early yesterday morning.

Train No. 482, on a Vancouver to Montreal run, uncoupled 30 cars from the caboose at 2:20am as it entered the west end of the village. The 60-ton cars slammed into each other, sending up a shower of sparks 50 feet high.

The five-man crew on the freight train, which was carrying lumber and flour, were uninjured.

Stan Harris, superintendent for CP's Smiths Falls rail division, said yesterday that the derailment, just across from the arena, is under investigation and that the cause of the accident and the amount of damage have not been determined.

While onlookers gathered around the wreckage, which in one section looked like a broken accordion as six cars leaned up and over each other, a 20-man maintenance crew was joined by 40 workers from CPU's specialized wrecking crew to pull the cars from the tracks.

As the wreckage was lifted away, trucks backed up to pick up the strewn cargo.

The lines - both eastbound and westbound lines were blocked by the wreckage - were expected to be cleared today. Railway ties were scored and broken for more than a mile.

"I heard the train coming down the tracks, that noise you're used to, and then all of a sudden it didn't sound right," said Paul Monast, the first resident at the scene. "I jumped up and looked out and saw a pile going up and sparks going up in the air."

Monast, whose home is just across a field from the derailment site, met the crew coming up the track with flashlights.

When he saw the wreckage, he said, he couldn't believe it.

"You're so damned surprised, you don't know what to say or to do. You're kind of shocked."

John Van Bruinessen, Monast's neighbor, was also jolted out of bed by the crash.

"I knew something had happened," he said. "There was a big crash and a rumble and roar. We (he and Monast) took the truck down and when we saw a coupler on the ground I knew that it had separated."

Both men helped workmen pinpoint the worst areas of 'amage, including the Carl Smith crossing where the ties had been ripped out.

For other residents living along the tracks, seeing the wreckage answered the question of what they had heard during the night but had not given any more thought to.

"I was thinking the train was really, really loud last night," said Pauline White. "But I looked out the window and saw nothing and went back to bed. Then I got up at 8am and saw this.

"When I moved to a small town I thought I wouldn't have this kind of excitement."

Bob Delorme was taking a nap in his truck at Nutrite Fertilizer before starting his early morning shift when he heard "something like an earthquake".

"It sounded like a bunch' of tin- crumpling up and it went on for about five minutes," he said. "But I didn't pay much attention."

"I've been living here 38 years and I've never seen anything like this," said Harold Armstrong. "When I heard the noise last night I thought it was a truck going over the crossing."

"It's a hell of a mess," said CP truck driver Garnet Sands of Smiths Falls. "I've seen a lot of pictures of derailments but I wasn't expecting anything quite like this."

Derailement, toxic leak force 200 to flee. (with aerial photo and location map)

TRAIN SPLITTING: More than 200 people were forced from their homes Thursday when 30 cars of a CP Rail freight train overturned and a fire broke out 155 kilometres east of Ottawa. One car leaked hydrogen peroxide. No one was injured.

DALHOUSIE MILLS, Ont. In what is becoming an increasingly common event, a CP Rail freight train carrying dangerous chemicals derailed on the Ontario-Quebec border, 155 kilometres east of Ottawa, forcing more than 200 people from their homes for six hours.

The derailment occurred at 11:40 a.m. Twisted wreckage straddled the border between Dalhousie Mills, Ont. and Dalhousie, Que. This was the 161st train to jump the tracks this year in Canada the most in a single year since 1985.

No one was injured in the crash, which saw 36 cars at the back of the two-engine, 69-car train break away from the front and plow into each other over a 400-metre stretch of CP Rail's mainline.

Three of the cars were carrying chemicals. Two carrying alcohol remained upright, but one carrying 70--per-cent pure hydrogen peroxide tipped over and leaked the chemical through a broken top valve.

Four box cars caught fire during the wreck, but were put out quickly.

People in this small community reported hearing the sound of the crash more than two kilometres away.

CP officials at the scene said they weren't sure what caused the crash.

"We have to check the tracks, the axles and all the mechanical components before we can say anything about the cause," said CP spokesman Michel Spénard.

Area residents were thankful the derailment was not in a populated area.

"That would have been awful," said Colleen Dance, "but nobody is hurt so it's just more of an inconvenience".

In the past six years, trains have been jumping their tracks in steadily increasing numbers.

After a decade of decline due to improved safety measures, derailments fell to just 102 in 1990. But that number rose to 156 in 1995, and this year derailments are on a pace to hit more than 240. While derailments will have doubled, rail traffic has only gone up by about 10 per cent over the same period.

"We really don't know why it's quite perplexing," says Gary McLaughlin who monitors railway accidents as director of investigations for the Transportation Safety Board of Canada.

The board is especially concerned that the number of derailments with multi-car or dangerous goods on board has also gone up.

McLaughlin says the problems could be anything from a rash of bearing and wheel failures to broken rails.

Others say it's because railways are trying to get by with less money

"Travellers should equip themselves with a rosary and a St. Christopher's medal and pray," says Harry Gow of Transport 2000 Canada, a consumer group that follows transport issues.

"The federal government has kept cutting its funding of railways to the point where they can barely survive."

Gow says the elimination of railway freight subsidies and the reduction of funding to VIA Rail have a major impact on the Canadian freight industry

The cuts have resulted in staff reductions, while rail traffic has gone up.

Bob Ballantyne, director of the Railway Association of Canada, says spending on technology better protects safety than does spending on people.

Transport Canada met with the major rail companies recently to create new voluntary safety procedures.

CP Rail and CN Rail will start programs of more frequent track inspections, improved wheel and bearing checks and an extended flaw detection program.

No injuries, safety issues after train derailed in Quebec

Canadian Pacific Rail crews will be working throughout the weekend to repair damage caused by a 20-car derailment early yesterday near Dalhousie Mills, Que., a farm community east of Alexandria.

"Twenty cars of the freight train derailed about 3:50 a.m.," said Canadian Pacific spokesman Michel Spénard. "Sixteen of the cars were empty; four were auto-carriers loaded with used cars," he said.

"All the cars are upright. There are no injuries, and no environmental issues. And there are no public safety issues and no blocked crossings, that sort of thing.

"It's only our own freight traffic that is involved. We have double tracks there. Six of the cars were leaning over toward the other track, so they were our priority, getting them out of the way to resume operations between the clean up."

The cause of the derailment is under investigation, said Canadian Pacific spokesman Mark Seland.

Mr. Seland said a repair was made Feb. 4 to the section of the track where the derailment occurred.

SMITHS FALLS - They're getting by with a lot of help from their friends, and with their own dogged determination. After a decade of dedication and hard work by its board of directors and supporters, the Smiths Falls Community Theatre will finally host performances in its own home at the old train station on Victoria Street.

The Smiths Falls Station Theatre will open with a gala event on April 24.

The Via Rail waiting room will remain at the old station until the new railway station at 42 Union St. is completed. When the new station is operational "construction could begin as early as this spring" the waiting room of the old station will become part of the theatre lobby.

Jamie Schoular is president of the SFCT and explains that, back in 1999 and 2000 the old train station was going to be torn down.

"The railway came to the town and asked if there was any other way the town would like to use it. Our group came forward and said 'Yes, we'll give it a try,'" he says.

The Town of Smiths Falls purchased the property from the railway and has granted a long-term lease theatre group.

For 10 years the board of directors has taken its shows on the road, using other local facilities such as high school auditoriums and church halls, whenever they've been available.

Schoular speaks of the relief now that the "wandering minstrel" phase of the theatre's existence is coming to an end.

"Well, logically it's certainly going to make it an awful lot easier to not have to hall sets from the station to wherever we were performing," he says. "It's going to be great to have a first-class facility that can technically provide the support that a production requires, we won't have to worry about lighting and sound.

"It's going to mean that the patrons are will be in a first-class facility" comfortable chairs, not hard plastic chairs, and there's going to be an atmosphere that is much more theatre-like than performing in a school gym."

Vice-president Pauline Aunger has been smitten with theatre footlights since her teen years when she joined the earlier Smiths Falls Little Theatre. When that group was re-established as the SFCT, it was natural that she would continue her association and she has been a board member of the SFCT ever since.

Aunger has great memories of the SFCT, with anecdotes of acts of kindness and support by community members. For instance, back in 2002 an opportunity arose to obtain theatre seats at no cost from the National Arts Centre, as the NAC was replacing its seats. Terry Wills of Wills Transfer Limited was there to provide pick up and delivery of the 140 seats. The seats have been in storage at the station and have recently been placed into position as the construction site gradually transforms itself into a charming new theatre.

Aunger speaks of the ongoing need for volunteers at The Station Theatre. Amid the challenges and hard work there's companionship as part of a team, an opportunity to develop skills, and also have fun.

"We always need people," she says. "Backstage, tickets, make-up, acting, directing. It's always the great thing about a volunteer theatre company, always the need and there's never too many volunteers. Everyone has a niche, a part they like to play," she says.

Board member Nancy Yunker is responsible for fundraising for the new theatre.

"The amount of money gone into the building is probably around \$1 million, from structure to finishing touches," she says. "The town has contributed to that (by investing in the building), they have been very supportive from the start."

Four grants have been received from The Ontario Trillium Foundation, and grants have been received from FCD AgriSpirit Fund, and from the Rideau Valley Heartland Eastern Ontario Development Program.

The "All Aboard Campaign - The Final Spike" has raised \$83,000 through SFCT's own fundraising efforts. Seat sponsoring for \$200 (sold out), silent auctions, and donations from patrons, is bringing them nearer to their goal of \$100,000.

Yunker says that not everything will be complete on opening night " the kitchen area and parts of the top floor renovations remain as works-in-progress.

"But we have everything we need to open. The sound and lighting will be great, but you can always add on things," she says.

Much of the money raised has been spent on areas that people will never see - in the basement in the ceiling.

"Right off the bat," says Schoular. "The building had to be made structurally secure to bring it up to code, make it useable, so initially a lot of money was spent on the place, making sure the building was secure and safe."

On April 24, 2010, the SFCT will host its gala opening - a \$100 per person, black tie event, when its new theatre will be presented to the community. Its first theatre presentation will take place in late April or May - "The Jasper Station" a little musical about a railway station, appropriate to the occasion.

The SFCT plans to continue its tradition of presenting four plays a year.

Schoular believes that it's part of a well-rounded community to have a cultural-arts component where people have an opportunity to entertain, and to be entertained, at an a

"Not a lot of people want to travel to the National Arts Centre. Now they're going to have their own theatre facility just down the street," says Schoular.

Friday 14/05/2010 CBC News Winchester Smiths Falls

The community theatre group of Smiths Falls, Ont., is opening its first show Friday night in a venue that's been 10 years in the making.

The Station Theatre is a renovation of an old CP Rail station built in 1887 at a time when CP used to run passenger service through the town.

The crumbling station was going to be demolished in 1999 when the Smiths Falls Community Theatre put forth the idea to rebuild the site as a theatre.

Pat Smith, the theatre group's treasurer, said members saw it as a way to get out of performing in high-school gymnasiums.

"So really, it was a desire for the community theatre to have a venue of their own," Smith said. "And really, a couple of silly people took on the challenge."

Smith was one of those people, and over the last 10 years he has watched over every detail of the train station's transformation, as the structure was reinforced and the floor of the old restaurant, which had caved in, was replaced by a state-of-the-art theatre that holds 140 seats.

He said the project cost \$750,000 and a decade of volunteer labour. He said it took so long because when they ran out of money for a particular job, the work stopped too.

"It's been a long haul and each time you start, you have to build up that enthusiasm again to continue," Smith said.

The building is still used by rail passengers, since Via Rail has a small waiting area that leads to its platform.

Friday night's night performance is the Norman Foster musical Jasper Station, in which a group of people meets at an empty train station.

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/ottawa/story/2010/05/13/ott-smiths-station-theatre.html#ixzz0oNL1pBHq>

07/02/2012 Ottawa Citizen Winchester

A country road east of Kemptville has been shut down after a train collided with a vehicle.

Ontario Provincial Police said no one was injured in the crash, which happened just after 5 a.m.

Boundary Road has been closed between Clark and Cameron Roads as police investigate.

No other information was immediately available.

Read more: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/injuries+train+collision+near+Kemptville/6113507/story.html#ixzz1slvm7DgJ>

OTTAWA Via Rail says that, if the track between Ottawa and Toronto is still blocked Thursday because of Wednesday's CP derailment, passengers with Thursday tickets will be put onto buses.

Via spokesman Jacques Gagnon told the Citizen late Wednesday night that the rail company will honour Thursday tickets that way if need be, adding that it was still not clear whether CP would have the track cleared.

The Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday afternoon that five cars derailed on a CP Rail freight train about 1:30 p.m. near Smiths Falls. One car carried some form of hazardous material, but it is still not clear what the material was. However a board spokesman in Ottawa said there was no leak, and the TSB considered there to be no danger to the public.

There were no injuries, the spokesman said. The TSB sent two investigators to the scene.

Passenger David Gonczol was on the 12:30 train from Ottawa to Toronto. At 3:45 p.m. he sent an email to the Citizen saying he had been "sitting near Smiths Falls for two hours waiting for buses to Toronto."

First-class passengers had left an hour earlier, he noted. The rest were waiting for more buses to arrive.

A photo posted by another passenger on Twitter showed train wheels just a few centimetres off the track.

A CP spokesman put the figure at eight cars derailed, and said it occurred where the main line passes the CP yard.

CP also says there was no leak, but it also denied knowing what the material was.

Gagnon said that it took until about 6 p.m. for Via to get all its passengers onto buses.

Read more: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Train+derailment+near+Smiths+Falls+halts+Ottawa+Toronto+service/8127309/story.html#ixzz2OB5thtYm>