

Local Railway Items from Ottawa Papers 1969

Tuesday 14/01/1969 Ottawa Citizen Lachute Hull

Hull station ready

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

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

21/01/1969 Ottawa Citizen Chalk River Almonte

The big CP derailment at the 'half-way' crossing between Almonte and Carleton Place with a couple of aerial pictures.

Wednesday 22/01/1969 Ottawa Citizen Chalk River Carleton Place

Threat of Explosion Hangs over \$500,000 Wreck.

Attempts to clear the \$500,000 wreckage of 34 freight cars piled up at a level crossing bear here Tuesday continued this morning under the threat of an explosion from two overturned propane gas tankers.

Provincial police kept guard over the area, about three miles north of here on Highway 29 at the C.P.R. crossing, as about 50 men and two giant cranes hauled twisted box cars from the clogged line.

The highway remained closed today while other trains were rerouted.

The two tankers were not ruptured in the massive 3.30 p.m. derailment, but police kept hundreds of curious spectators well back from the scene in the event leaking gas might explode.

Both police and railway officials were astonished that there had been no injuries.

One of the first cars to derail left the tracks just before the level crossing and sliced across the highway a few feet in front of a waiting school bus.

Box cars stacked up.

Other cars ripped up sections of the highway, railway lines and wooden ties as they piled up, and in some cases, landed on top of one another.

One freight car landed with its steel wheels on top of a tanker.

Two hydro poles were sliced through by other cars. The top section of one pole was left dangling over the line supported only by the high voltage cables.

Complete wheel assemblies of many cars were torn off as they piled into one another and lay strewn along the tracks among sections of line, twisted cars and splintered ties.

Wednesday 22/01/1969 Ottawa Citizen Chalk River Carleton Place

Derailement (with aerial photo)

CARLETON PLACE Attempts to clear the \$500,000 wreckage of 34 freight cars piled up at a level crossing near here Tuesday continued this morning under the threat of an explosion from two overturned propane gas tankers.

Provincial police kept guard over the area, about three miles north of here on Highway 29 at the CPR crossing, as about 50 men and two giant cranes hauled twisted box cars from the clogged line.

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Train Crash Theory - Wheel is Blamed

A crack which caused the leading wheel of either the fourth or fifth car to come off is believed to be to blame for the \$500,000 freight train crash near Carleton Place yesterday.

It is known that at least eight rails between Almonte and the accident scene were broken.

Faulty wheel likely

This could have been caused by the faulty wheel running out of line and pounding against the rail as the east bound train headed for Carleton Place, said one railway employee.

The 60-car freight train left Chalk River several hours before. Its speed at the time of the accident was estimated to be about 45 m.p.h.

George G. Sayer, assistant superintendent for the Smiths Falls division of CPR, said work crews were concentrating their efforts to pulling cars away from the tracks and repairing breaks so regular traffic, which had been diverted to other lines, could again travel the main line.

Mr. Sayer said he hoped the two cranes, one brought in from Smiths Falls and the other from Sudbury, could pull the two tankers back on to the tracks and pull them away by sometime this afternoon.

"The line should be open again by about 5 p.m. today," he said, adding that the general freight being carried by the train could then be hauled away and the other cars righted and moved later this week.

Mr. Sayer said there was, as far as he could tell, little damage to the cargo.

One eye-witness, Bill Ritchie, 32, a Bell Telephone employee from Almonte, was driving north toward the level crossing when he saw the red signal lights begin flashing.

"I saw the train swaying so I stopped about 500 feet from the tracks," he said. "The next thing I saw were freight cars flying through the air like cardboard boxes in a high wind. It was terrifying."

He said a couple of cars shot across the highway "while the others piled up on the north side like magazines thrown on the floor."

"There was a hell of a crash and snow flying in the air. A lot landed on my truck so I jumped out and after a minute or two ran up to the tracks. I thought people would be hurt," said Mr. Ritchie.

He said that by the time he got there, people from the locomotive, that had shot through the crossing pulling three cars and dragging a fourth without wheels, met him.

"One box car just missed the school bus, which luckily didn't have any children aboard, and another cut into the hydro poles and the warning flashers," said Mr. Ritchie.

"There was a ball of fire in the sky when one hydro pole was cut off," said Mr. Ritchie, who added that he and a work-mate then flagged down cars until police arrived.

Saturday 14/06/1969

Kingston (CN)

Morrisburg

Shown above is the wreckage of a number of box-cars which were derailed one mile north of Morrisburg, Ont. Thousands of popsicles were strewn about the area, as well as lumber, newsprint and cement. The train was travelling West to Chicago, via Toronto when the derailment occurred in early afternoon. No injuries were reported. (UPI Photo.)

Estimate Damage at \$500,000.

MORRISBURG, Ont. Derailment of 34 cars of a 107-car freight train one mile north of this Seaway Valley town has been blamed on a seized wheel-bearing. Damage was estimated by one Ottawa newspaper at \$500,000.

The 34 derailed cars were stacked like cordwood and 300 yards of the Canadian National tracks were torn up in the spectacular accident.

The jack-knifing effect of the crash crushed, overturned and tore up many of the loaded 34 derailed cars. The freight was westbound from Montreal through Toronto to Chicago.

Train engineer Wilfred Kelly of Brockville, said he had no idea what caused the derailment.

"The wreck occurred 52 cars behind the engine," he said "With all the noise an engine makes, we were half a mile away before someone shouted at us to look back. All we could see were clouds of dust and a vague mass of wreckage. The wrecked box cars were located in the middle of the mile-long train, with both ends remaining on the track."

Friday 31/10/1969 Ottawa Citizen

Alexandria

Vars

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

Pick up your tickets tomorrow while they last.