

Local Railway Items from Area Papers - 2002

03/05/2002 Ottawa Citizen Chalk River Pakenham

No injuries in nine-car derailment near Pakenham

Neighbours: 'We slept . right through it' .

Emergency crews were cleaning up yesterday after nine freight cars veered off the railway tracks near Pakenham just after 1 a.m.

Emergency workers reported no injuries in the accident, and the crash didn't involve any dangerous materials.

Hugh and Mary Lunney, whose property backs onto the tracks, woke yesterday morning to the sight of rail officials clearing the cars.

"We must have a clear conscience, because we slept right through it," said Mrs. Lunney yesterday evening.

The derailment occurred less than 100 metres from the Lunnneys' house in Pakenham, just west of Ottawa. Mr. Lunney, who has lived on the property his entire life, said they've never had any problems with the trains before.

Officials from the railway were working late into the night to determine the cause of the derailment.

As of last night, there were about five cars left to clear.

04/06/2002 Ottawa Citizen Otrain

Two of three O-Trains sidelined after mishaps

Two incidents within 24 hours have left O-Train passengers with only one train to stand on.

The O-Train will be on a reduced schedule today arriving every 40 minutes instead of every 20 minutes because two of its three trains are out of commission.

On Sunday, a train returning to the Walkley Road maintenance yard ran over a rail switch that was in the wrong position, damaging its wheels.

Several parts must be inspected by a Montreal lab before the train can be used again.

Then yesterday morning, the substitute train's generator malfunctioned, shutting down all of its electronic systems.

"It's an unfortunate coincidence that hopefully will be reconciled quickly," said Helen Geult (sic), manager of transit, planning and development for the City of Ottawa.

The city has three O-Trains but uses only two at a time, rotating their use for maintenance purposes.

Both trains are expected to be repaired within the next two days.

05/06/2002 Ottawa Citizen Alexandria Vars

Woman dies after being hit by train

A resident of the Vars area in her 40s died early yesterday morning when she was hit by a freight train.

Ottawa police say the woman was walking on the railway right of way when she was struck by the train at about 2:55 a.m. Her name has not been released.

The investigation has been concluded. Foul play is not suspected and no charges are pending.

Vars is 30 kilometres southeast of Ottawa.

15/08/2002 Ottawa Citizen Otrain

NRC looks for ways to reduce stress on O-Train wheels

By David Reevley

The National Research Council is trying to find a way for O-Trains to cross two heavy-rail tracks without suffering impacts so severe that their undercarriages are damaged, according to the manager of the light-rail pilot project.

Studying how to "reprofile" the crossings near the south end of the light-rail line will cost taxpayers \$60,000, Mario Peloquin said.

"We would hope to be able to make the Walkley crossing at 20 miles per hour and the Ell-wood crossing at 30 miles per hour," Mr. Peloquin said.

Now, he said, the O-Train can only cross the other tracks at 15 and five miles per hour, respectively. "

The trains lose a significant amount of time in the deceleration," he said.

The metal of the city's three light trains' wheels is being "marked" by the impact with the heavy-rail tracks as the trains make the crossings dozens of times a day.

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There is no cracking in the steel, I want to make that clear, and there is no pitting," Mr. Peloquin said.

Nevertheless, he said the marks show the wheel-on-track impact is significant, and the resulting vibrations could damage the wheel assemblies or the joints between those assemblies and the trains themselves.

"Those are in a difficult to reach part of the trains, so it's quite difficult to do maintenance," Mr. Peloquin said. Accordingly, NRC experts will try rebuilding the "diamonds" where the tracks cross and will study whether the new design reduces the stress on the train wheels.

He said OC Transpo hopes the work will be finished by mid-September.

21/12/2002 Ottawa Citizen Kingston (CN) Cornwall

Freight accident delays VIA Rail passengers

VIA Rail passengers between Montreal and Toronto were delayed on one of (he busiest weekend of the year last night after the rail link was severed near Cornwall when five cars of a freight train derailed.

No one was injured in the accident, which occurred about 6 p.m. just west of Cornwall on the main CN route. However, the load of lumber spilled on both the east and westbound tracks, which officials expected would take at least 18 hours to clean up.

Passenger trains were diverted through Ottawa, which delayed passengers by about two hours, said VIA spokesman Paul Raynor. Passengers who expected to get on a train anywhere between Montreal and Gananoque were bused to Gananoque or Montreal, he said.

The problem delayed some passengers up to three hours. The problem was expected to be cleared up by noon today.