

Local Railway Items from Area Papers - Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraqui Railway

07/05/1877 Kingston Daily British Whi Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Running. The streetcars will be run through the city commencing Thursday (10 May 1877). The cars have been running from Williamsville to the head of Princes street and their crowded condition is evidence that they are being fully appreciated.

05/10/1888 Almonte Gazette Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Isaac Lyn, of Kingston, while going home on a street car on Saturday night fell over the dashboard, when a wheelpassed over his head and crushed out his brains. He died instantly.

09/11/1888 Almonte Gazette Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

The Kingston City Council has purchased the street railway, and find it will take quite a sum to put the tracks in a safe and efficient condition.

08/02/1889 Almonte Gazette Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

The people of Kingston must surely prefer walking to riding. At all events the street railway does not seem to be a paying institution. The original cost of the railway was about \$40,000, but only \$7,475 was offered for it a short time ago when tenders were asked for.

22/03/1889 Renfrew Mercury Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Folger Bros. who bought the Kingston Street Railway, which cost \$50,000, for \$9,000. They will improve it greatly.

22/03/1889 Almonte Gazette Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

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31/01/1890 Almonte Gazette Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Kingston Street Railway is to be run by electricity.

05/05/1893 Almonte Gazette Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

Kingston will at once take steps to have an electric street railway

17/11/1893 Almonte Gazette Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Sunday Cars in Kingston.

There is a mild sensation in Kingston since Sunday afternoon, when the electric cars were out attending to business the same as on an ordinary weekday. When questioned about the matter, the company replied that they were running them for the convenience of the public. What the outcome will be it is at present hard to see, but in the opinion of many double tracking is a question that sinks into insignificance in comparison with Sunday cars.

31/08/1894 Brockville Recorder Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Two Kingston young ladies have applied for positions as conductors on the electric railway of that city.

A man named Spooner was killed by an electric street railway car at Kingston Wednesday. This was the first fatal accident from the trolley in Kingston.

10/07/1895 Ottawa Journal Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

SUNDAY CARS IN KINGSTON.

Motors Ran There on Sunday Under the Guise of Religion

The Kingston Whig of Monday says: Clang-clang! clang-clang! went the electric bells yesterday. It was quite an innovation for Sunday; toil is not a frequent occurrence here save in the livery stables and boat houses. But a Free Methodist camp meeting was on at Lake Ontario park and hundreds, yea thousands, were curious to see to what heights of excitement the religious enthusiasts could work themselves. And the people strained their necks to see, forgetting the day and its obligations.

From two o'clock to nine the cars were packed; every point a man could cling to was occupied. The conductors could hardly navigate to collect fares. Crowds stood on the street corners waiting for a chance to cling to anything. The solidly religious people, however, were not among the anxious. They quietly performed their duties at home and church as was their wont and paid little heed to the clanging of bells and reverberating wires and wheels, further than to deplore that the company operated under the guise of religion.

The meetings at the park did not come up to the expectations of the crowd. They had anticipated whirling dervishes, shouting, prancing, prostrating individuals, in fact to see ridiculous performances, as has been declared to be features of Free Methodist gatherings, but they were disappointed.

The meetings were interesting and at times exhilarating, in fact reminded one of the negro camp meetings. True there were some vociferous exclamations, and some excited women, but nothing really to signify, and quite tame to what was desired and wished for by many.

08/10/1896 Kemptville Advance Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

This year the poles in the streets owned by the telegraph, telephone, street railway and electric light companies of Kingston, have been assessed, and their owners will have to pay taxes.

04/06/1897 Almonte Gazette Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

An attempt will be made to stop the Sunday cars in Kingston.

25/08/1897 Lanark Era Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

A striking example of benevolence was seen in Kingston on Friday. From two o'clock in the afternoon until 10 o'clock in the evening the fare boxes on the electric street railway were in the hands of young ladies, Mr. D. Fulger, with his goodness of heart, placed the cars at the disposal of the nurses of the hospitals to raise money for a fund in aid of building a nurses' home. The young men in blue coats and brass buttons were replaced by young ladies in snow white uniform, trimmed with red and a red cross on the right arm. The services of the conductors were not altogether done away with. This official looked after the "fishing pole" and did other little duties, such as collecting the fare where the ladies could not conveniently go after it. The ladies received a silver harvest, as the company agreed to give them all the silver coin put into the fare boxes.

29/10/1900 Kingston Daily British Whi Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

Incidents of the Day

G.T.R. car 3,635, loaded and marked "quick despatch," was derailed on the street car line at the city park for fourteen hours on Saturday.

Passengers had to be transferred at that point. It was replaced on the line this afternoon and the belt line cars went through and "quick despatch" went on.

05/06/1902 The Record, Chesterville Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Fire did considerable damage to the street railway company's buildings in King Street east this morning. The firemen kept the blaze from the sheds in which the cars were, and confined it to the brick building in the workshop, in which it originated. Some implements and other things were stored above and were badly damaged, the whole building being gutted. The loss will be about \$10,000.

22/06/1905 Merrickville Star Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

The Kingston civic authorities have given the bondholders notice that the Street Railway generators in the electric power house must be removed before July 1st as the space occupied by them is required for extension to the lighting system. This means that the city has no intention of further supplying power to the Street Railway. It means also that there will be no cars operated there this summer, as a power plant could not be erected in less than three months, and one must be erected before the cars can run again. The chances are that the Railway will remain closed until next spring, as operating the cars in the late autumn and during the winter is other than profitable.

04/07/1907 Ottawa Journal Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Kingston, July 4. "Accidental death" was the verdict in the case of little Hilda McGillivray, killed by a street car. The jury found that the crew did all it could to avoid the accident. As no fender was on the car, it having been removed to put on a new one approved by the government, the Jurors suggested that the old fenders be retained until new ones replaced them.

13/01/1909 Ottawa Journal Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq

Kingston Street car barns burnt.

A \$10,000 fire broke out early this morning in the street car barns on Ontario street and was fought vigorously by the firemen in the face of the bitterest weather of this year. The alarm was given at about two o'clock, and from that hour until eight o'clock the flames were fought and the fire confined to the building, part of which was also occupied by Crawford's broom factory. The street car men got out much of their equipment, two cars alone being burnt. These were in the pits and were undergoing repairs.

The two upper flats of Crawford's factory, where the workrooms were, were badly gutted.

The fire was of so vigorous a type that it was deemed desirable to secure aid and the men of "A" and "B" Batteries were called out. They did yeoman service. Police Constable Nallon was injured by falling into a pit in the darkness.

The origin of the fire is so far unknown, but it took in the street car section. The line will be fairly well covered by insurance. The Street Railway Company owns the building.

14/01/1909 Ottawa Citizen Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

Serious Blaze Early In The Morning Costs \$10,000

Kingston, Ont. Jan. 12.[sic] - The Street Railway company's barns and Crawford's broom factory on King street east, were destroyed by fire which broke out about two o'clock this morning. The loss will be \$10,000. The firemen had a hard fight on such bitterly cold morning but managed to confine the terrific blaze to the two buildings. Members of A and B batteries were called out and rendered valuable assistance. All but two of the cars were saved. These two were in pits for repairs. Policeman Maylon was injured by falling into a pit in the darkness. The origin of the fire is unknown. The loss is pretty well covered by insurance.

29/07/1921 Eastern Ontario Review Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

The streetcars in Kingston ran on recent hot Sundays for the first time in the history of the Limestone City, and carried thousands of passengers to the lake shore and cooler places. The service will likely be continued during the summer.

01/03/1930 Ottawa Citizen Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

Kingston Minus Car service as a result of Fire

Lone car survives disastrous fire which is believed to have started from spontaneous combustion.

Kingston's street car service was wiped out by fire early today when all but one car was completely destroyed. With the exception of the lone car the city was without service.

believed to have originated from spontaneous combustion, the flames destroyed the barns and all contents and for a long time threatened many houses in the vicinity. More than 25 cars were destroyed and the damage will amount to more than \$125,000. part of the loss is covered by insurance and the prospects are that Kingston will be without street car service for some time.

03/03/1930 Ottawa Citizen Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

City has offered Kingston Lines

Kingston Street Railway company feels losses in recent fire too great to recover.

With only an hourly bus leaving the heart of the city for Portsmouth and intermediate points, the people of Kingston were today struggling along on a makeshift service, with little prospect of immediate improvement.

Officials of the Kingston Street Railway Company, who lost practically all of their rolling stock in the disastrous fire of Saturday, stated today the company had practically decided to cease operations altogether. Tonight the officials of the company are scheduled to meet with the finance committee of the city council and it is understood that a proposition will be made to the city to purchase the tracks of the street railway company as well as Lake Ontario Park which is owned by the company, and also a tourist camp.

While the company carried substantial insurance, the cost of replacement is too high to prompt the company to purchase new cars. As a matter of fact the company has been a losing proposition and two years ago the company threatened to cease operations altogether unless their power rates were lowered.

It is understood several bus companies have made application for permission to operate locally and it is possible that some action will be taken after the city council learns the official attitude of the company tonight.

03/03/1930 Ottawa Citizen Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraq Kingston

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Practically Ready To Stop Service

Street Car Co. at Kingston Prepares to Suspend All Operations

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Kingston's Car Service

Fire last Saturday wiped out practically all the street cars in the city of Kingston. It is reported that the officials of the street railway company would like to be relieved of the responsibility of purchasing new cars. In recent years, according to the Canadian Press despatch, operation of the Kingston street car service has been unprofitable. Under the circumstances, reluctance to put more money into street cars is understandable.

In the meanwhile, it is reported that several bus companies have made application for permission to operate in Kingston. It may be found that an equally satisfactory service at considerably less overhead cost can be furnished. In some cities, street cars are being discarded in favor of busses without waiting until a fire has wiped out the older equipment.

Advantages in traffic handling, where busses are able to pull up alongside the kerb instead of being tied to rails and overhead wires in the middle of the street, have appealed to city authorities. The public are also finding busses more convenient for suburban service. Kingston's street car fire may prove to be as timely as some fires in stores with overloaded shelves are said to be.

Kingston electors favor bus system

Vote 1,746 to 627 to grant ten year franchise to two companies

Kingston electors today decided to have a permanent bus system of transportation when they carried a bylaw giving the city council authority to grant a ten years franchise to the Kingston City Coach Company, Limited, and the Colonial Coach Lines Limited. The vote stood 1,746 for and 627 against the bylaw.

Council had already given second reading to the bylaw to grant the franchise, and as a result of today's vote council will on Monday next give final reading to the bylaw. This means that the bus company will continue its present temporary service until July 1 the date the new agreement goes into effect, when new equipment will be put on the line by the bus company.

Kingston's street car system was put out of business on March 1, as the result of a fire that destroyed the Street Railway Company's barns and all of its street cars. The report of an expert stated that it would cost \$325,000 to rehabilitate the street railway as a civic utility, the street railway company having stated that they would not continue the road.

Ticket to ride! Pictured above is a Kingston, Portsmouth and Cataraqui Electric Railway Company fare ticket to ride public transit in Kingston between the hours of 8:30am and 10:30pm. The company was in existence from 1895 until March of 1930 when a disastrous fire wiped out the fleet save one lone car (according to the Ottawa papers). It was reported yesterday that the Big Dig 2016 unearthed some streetcar tracks on Princess street. Perhaps it is from this company's lines?