

THE COBOURG, BLAIRTON & MARMORA RAILWAY & MINING COMPANY

DEATH BY DEGREES

In an 1885 Court of Chancery bankruptcy auction, T.P. Pearce of Belleville purchased the remains of the Cobourg railway. Pearce was primarily interested in the timber rights of the company he formed from the former corporate ashes.

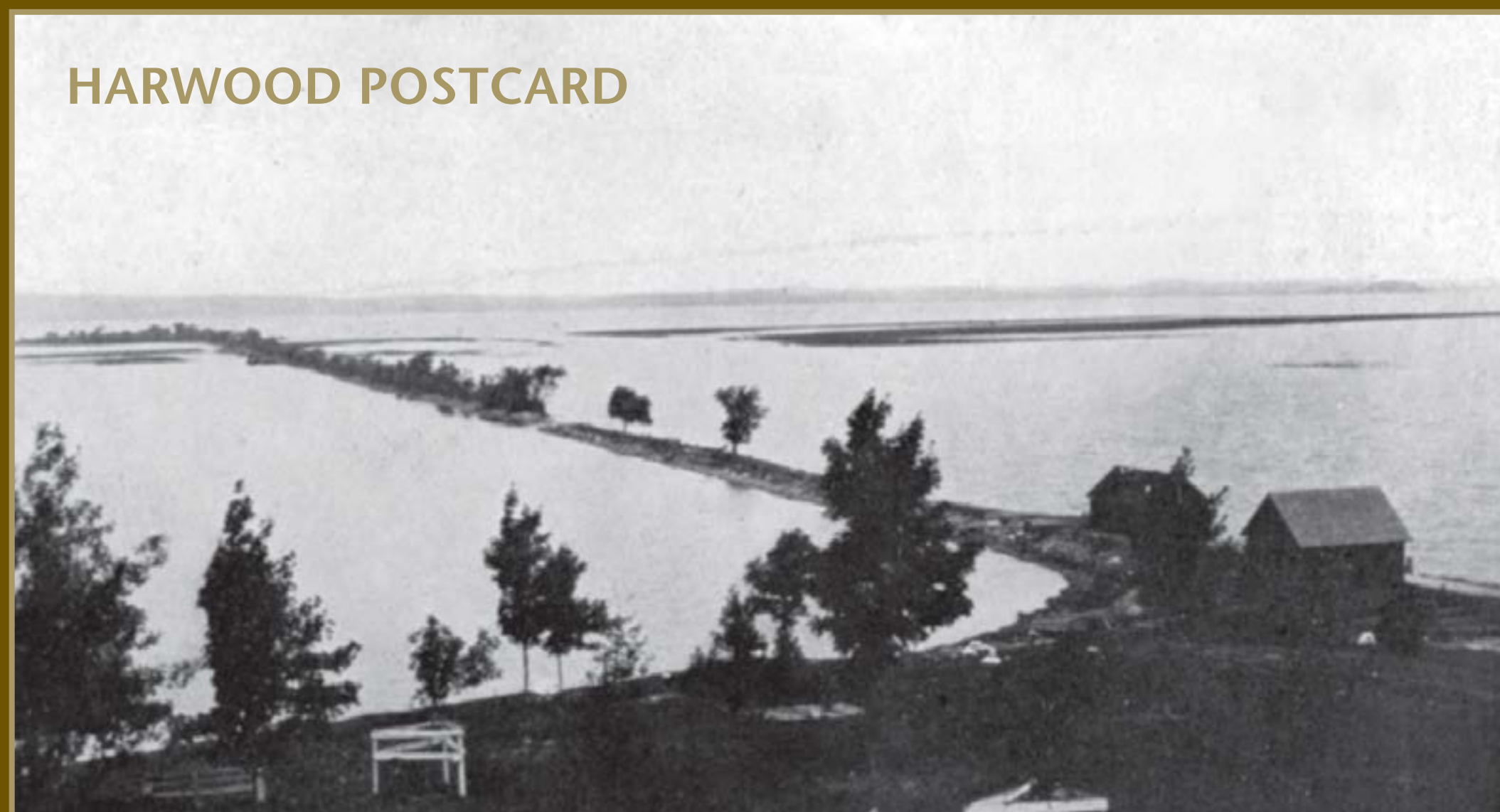
Harwood once again became the northern terminus of the Cobourg run which obviously operated on a smaller and sporadic schedule. Little ore was shipped. Lumber was the primary product transported to the harbour. Income from passenger conveyance for the year ending June 30, 1887 amounted to \$987.20.

In August 1888 the Cobourg World newspaper reported the last cargo of lumber shipped from the mills at Harwood occurred earlier the same month. Previously Pearce had offered the railway for sale to Cobourg's railway car builder, James Crossen, but Crossen declining the offer.

Gradually the CB&MR&MCo was absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railway and in 1893 disappeared as a separate legal entity. The following year the 5'6" gauge of the original C&PR was narrowed to the North American standard of 4'8½" gauge.

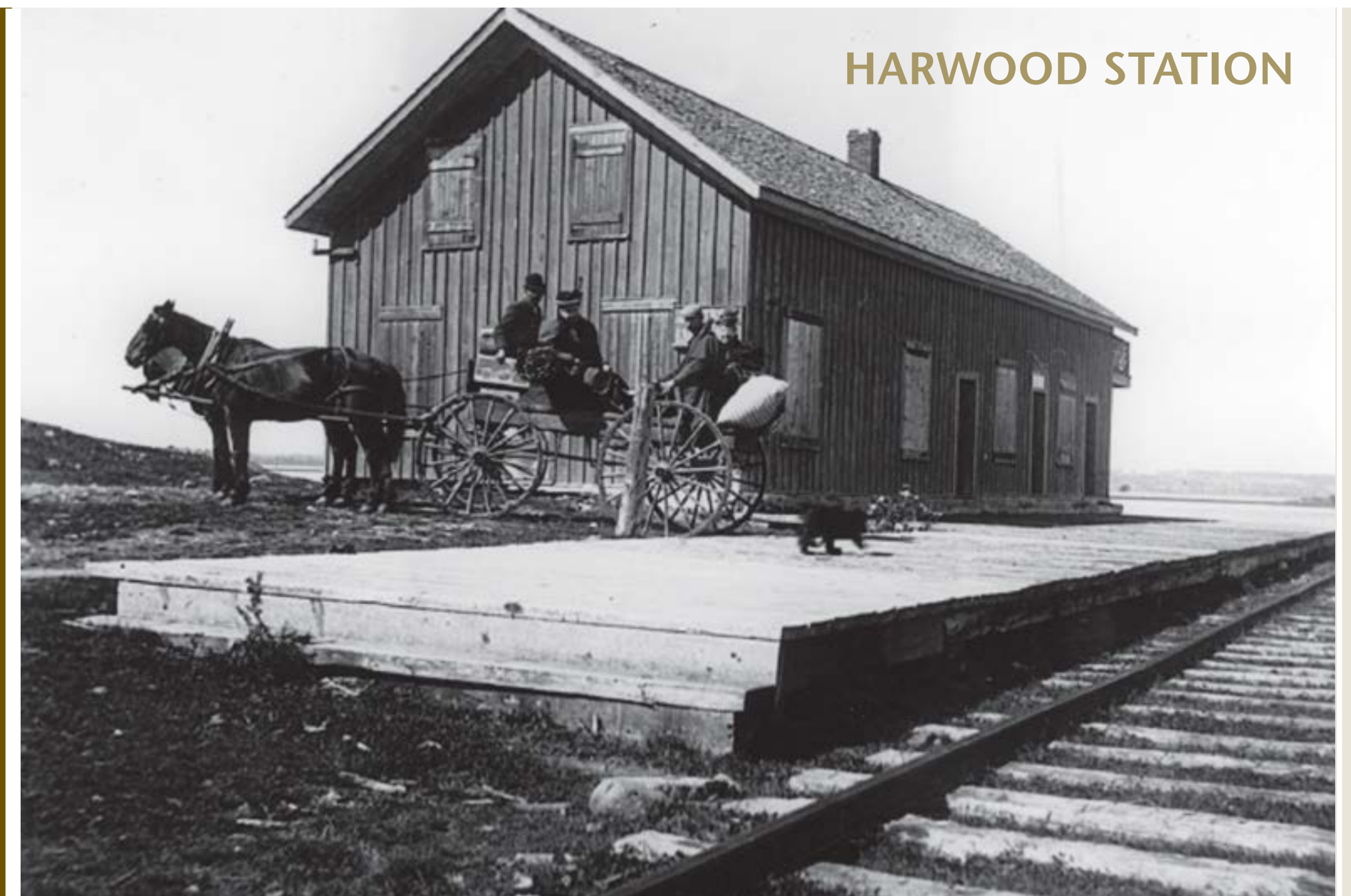
During the years prior to World War I the GTR continued to operate the line, chiefly for excursionists traveling to Rice Lake cottages and resorts. Much of the time the Harwood tracks were used simply for the storage of box cars. The 1850s dream for the Cobourg & Peterborough Railway faded away, virtually without notice.

HARWOOD POSTCARD



Credit: Post Card, Collection of Ted Rafuse

HARWOOD STATION



Credit: McCord Museum of Canadian History, Gift of Venmor Roper, MP-1977.76.11, collection of Ted Rafuse

This is the only known photograph of the original Cobourg & Peterborough Railway's Harwood Station. This 1896 image depicts the station closed as the windows have been boarded shut.

HARWOOD PIER & RAILS



Credit: Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives, 78-012/Denne/110-12

Harwood pier and rails appear in this undated image, perhaps taken in the 1880s. The broad or Provincial gauge tracks of the original Cobourg & Peterborough Railway appear in the centre of the photograph. The rails closest to the boat are much lighter and of a narrower gauge than those of the C&PRy.

