

Railway

It was 1868 before any visual effort was made to bring a railway into Bruce County. The great railway battle continued and finally County Council decided to submit a by-law to the tax payers to aid the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway (wide gauge) by "a free grant or donation of debentures by way of a bonus, to the extent of \$2500.00". The company was to build a railway through the county from the south-east boundary, and come out at Southampton. The line was to be completed in three years.

In 1871 Brant Township had a railway at last, a year to remember. Of course there had to be a decision on the most direct train route. When coarse, some parts of Brant rejoiced, while other parts were left far off the main line of the new railway. Maple Hill did not share in the boon and it has been suggested that the by-pass of the railway led to the downfall or collapse of these settlements.

Since 1920 this line has been owned and operated by the Canadian National Railway. In 1947, the year of the big snowstorm, the company brought in the rotary snow plow from Montreal.

One more railway line entered the Township of Brant and that is a short line running west from Hanover to Walkerton. This line has been in operation for some years and is owned by Canadian Pacific Railway.

On March 3, 1947 when the big snow storm hit this area, the CPR train became snowed in at the South Line crossing in Brant. The blizzard had such force that it took five engines and about 60 men shovelling to clear the way to get the train moving again.

There is no passenger train service into the area today and trains do not roar past by day or night like they used to. Some freight trains still move, hauling farm machinery and other manufactured goods in and taking grain, lumber etc. out.

The old puffing steam locomotives disappeared from the area in the early 1960's. Only the scream of the mighty diesel is heard in Brant today.

Update - 2004

The old railroad ^{tracks} were taken up in the late 1970's or early 80's.

The old rail line from the South Line Road to Walkerton was taken over by the town of Walkerton.

In 1997 Brant Township purchased the Hanover to Walkerton rail line for \$15,000. and then returned the old railway bed to the adjacent land holders.