

Mystery Photo - March 2018



The following information was supplied by Bryce Lee:

The Whistle Post is located on the south side of Elgin Street and Brock Street. This was the point at which a train moving towards Lakeshore Road would have to sound the whistle (two long, one short, one long - the last being held as the train crossed Lakeshore Road).

Trackage was the CNR Beach Subdivision. Now, at the point of said Whistle Post, the Beach Subdivision was two tracks wide, with additional tracks in situ for both Halliday's and Nicholson's. That was the west side, on the east side was a longer passing track where coal was delivered to Robson's sheds.

Hargrove (see below) was where the swing bridge crossed the Burlington Ship Canal. It was at this point the Beach Subdivision became two tracks all the way north to the tracks leading east to Toronto or west towards Hamilton. The area was known as Freeman.*

*I questioned “Hargrove” and the following is Bryce’s response:

Hargrove was the physical point where the then CNR Beach Subdivision came across the steam powered swing bridge which in turn crossed the Burlington Ship Canal

It was also a form of junction; a single track crossed the swing bridge. When the tracks reached the Burlington Beach shore, there was a switch/turnout which allowed the once single track to split into double track. That switch was named Hargrove, probably after the family living close by in the area.

Naming specific points where one track becomes two or two become one is often as a result of some family or something in the general area.

A good local example is what used to be called Burlington Junction as a geographic area.

When the Hamilton & Northwestern diamond was removed the station was then changed to first Freeman and then later; Burlington. The close knit geographic area surrounding the station was known as Freeman, after the family that lived in the vicinity.

Of course, today these tracks are gone and most traces have also disappeared. The Whistle Post is one of the few remaining reminders of another time.

**Please go to the next page to see photos of a train
on the Beach Strip**

This photo is from the book Hamilton's Other Railway by Charles Cooper (which is on loan to me from Bryce). The caption says it all –



Mikado-type #3509 is northbound on the double-tracked portion of the Beach just north of Hargrove, with about 40 assorted refrigerator and box cars. The proximity to the cottage and residence front door steps is remarkable. August 26, 1955 Robert J. Sandusky photo

I contacted Charles Cooper for permission to use the photo from his book and he got in touch with Bob Sandusky who not only gave permission to use the above photo – he sent me a colour version! (see next page)



"Northbound CNR freight has just cleared Burlington Canal on August 26, 1955.

It is stopped, waiting for orders to proceed north across Lakeshore Road to Burlington Jct." Robert J. Sandusky

Many thanks to both Charles Cooper and Robert Sandusky for their input.

J. Downey 23 March 2018