

# SUBMISSION TO THE TOWN OF PELHAM BUDGET OPEN HOUSE NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 RELATED TO AN INTERPRETATIVE BOARD ABOUT THE NIAGARA ST. CATHARINES & TORONTO RAILROAD

## WHO ARE WE?

The Niagara Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association (CRHA) is a group centered in Niagara that promotes an interest in local railway history. We have about 50 members. We are associated with the national group, the Canadian Railroad Historical Association (CHRA) which has over 3,000 members across Canada.

The Niagara Division was formed in 1978 and meets at the St. Catharines Museum the last Wednesday of the month between September and April. Our focus is on the photo documentation of the Niagara's railway history and its current evolution. We conduct field trips to a variety of locations both within and beyond Niagara. The group decided not to become involved in equipment preservation as there are others in Niagara already doing that. Our members have published books, written articles and given presentations on Niagara's railway history. The Niagara St. Catharines and Toronto (NS&T) Interpretative Board Project is an effort to promote knowledge of the significant role of the NS&T in the evolution of communities in Niagara.

## WHAT DO WE PROPOSE

The NS&T was an integrated transportation company that included the electric freight and passenger railway and lake boats linking Port Dalhousie and Toronto and buses. The company served Niagara from 1899 until 1960. The NS&T ran the last interurban passenger service in Canada in 1959 between Thorold and Port Colborne through the Town of Pelham.

The NS&T had an impact on Pelham as it brought a new north south railway connection that could compete with the Grand Trunk and Canada Southern. It made other settlements along the Welland Canal corridor more accessible with up to 18 passenger and express trains per day.

This interpretative board is part of an overall project to document the history of the NS&T in each community it served. To date we have completed and installed signs in St. Catharines (5), Thorold (1), Welland (1) and Port Colborne (1). We have completed three signs for the City of Niagara Falls that will be installed as soon as trail work is completed.

In addition, we have completed an interpretative board for the Welland Ship Canal Construction Railway as part of the Fallen Works Project and are working with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for a railway historical sign in their Town Dock area.

We would like to do our next interpretative board in Pelham. We have already had discussions with Barbara Wiens, your Director of Planning. The exact location of the interpretative board would be determined jointly by a representative of the CRHA and the Town of Pelham. A general location is shown on the air photo attached to this presentation.

## WHAT WILL BE ON THE PROPOSED INTERPRETATIVE BOARD

The proposed interpretative board for Pelham would tell the story of the NS&T with photographs, drawings and text has four parts:

1. The NS&T and its evolution,
2. The extension of the N.S. &T through Pelham
3. How the service operated.
4. The decline of the railway service and the last run of an interurban from Thorold to Port Colborne through Pelham in 1959.

There would likely be up to three photographs and a map showing the extension to through Pelham, a graphic of the area around the former Fonthill station and text.

We have worked with Fontasy Signs on our interpretative boards and would intend to continue with them. Fontasy Signs have done numerous interpretative boards for the government agencies and are a premier sign company.

The interpretative board would be approximately 0.8 m x 0.9 m. It would be our intent to have this interpretative board installed in the spring of 2023.

The Niagara Division of the CRHA would be responsible for the research and assembly of the material for the interpretative board and coordinating with Fontasy Signs. We would ask that the Town to be responsible for the locates for the interpretative board and the long-term maintenance of the interpretative board. The signs are guaranteed for ten years by Fontasy Signs.

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## WHAT ARE WE ASKING

We will be asking the Town of Pelham for a financial commitment of a maximum of \$1,000. The estimated cost of the interpretative board is \$4,950 (August 2022), The Niagara Division would contribute \$2,500, we have fundraised almost \$1,500 from the

public leaving a \$1,000 from the Town of Pelham (20% of the cost). Other municipalities have contributed anywhere from 40% to 100% of the cost of the interpretative boards.

We look forward to working with you towards the implementation of the project and increasing public awareness of an important aspect of our shared heritage. If you have any questions, I would be pleased to respond.

Respectfully Submitted

Paul Chapman

Chair, NS&T Interpretative Board Project

Niagara Division, CRHA

