

CP RAIL 1879 to 1883

First Spike - Rutherglen Ontario, Bonfield Township., [June 9th 1881]

Last Spike - Craigellachie, British Columbia., [Nov. 7th 1885]

Approx. - 2,250 employees to build roadbed from Bonfield to Sudbury

253 teams of horses (506)

Wages - 10 cents/HR Average 14 to 15 hours/Day

Room & Board supplied by the employer - \$12.00/Mth

In the year of 1879 - only 50 families between Mattawa & Nipissing

Approx. 10,000 horses & dog teams were used Rutherglen - Vancouver BC

Approx. 12,000 employees built the CP Rail line from Rutherglen - BC

James Worthington - Superintendent of Construction (Civil Engineer)

[Rutherglen Ontario, same after birth place Rutherglen Scotland]

[Name Sudbury for his wife as a birthday gift.]

Duncan McIntyre - President of Canada Central Railroad - (Vice Pres. CP

Rail 1883) Birth place - Callander Scotland... Partner with Worthington.

[Co-founder of Rutherglen Ontario]

May 30, 2025...

40 Park St.
Rutherglen Ontario.

Re: "THE STEEL RAILS GROUP"

To Whom It May Concern:

It is our pleasure to introduce ourselves on behalf of the residents and Communities of Bonfield Township in relationship in building and preserving the local history an preserving it's heritage for future years to come.

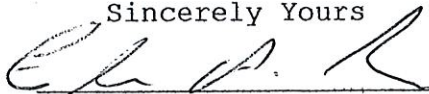
The "STEEL RAILS GROUP" is a non-profit organization group of individuals in vision of building a Museum/Archive representing the birth place of Canadian Pacific Railroad, Bell Canada and Lumbering Giant J.R. Booth who timbered our forest bringing the pioneers from the Ottawa Valley to harvest his logging operations. This Group has visions of developing not just economic growth but creating a major tourist attraction combining educational & historical collections for all to enjoy.

May we call on your support in becoming a Sponsor/Partner in developing exhibits such as:

- 1) The largest Canadian Pacific First Spike Monoment...
- 2) A Wall of Honour of All CPR Employees from 1878 to present date who worked the North Bay Sudivision...
- 3) The Birth Place of Rutherglen Rural Telephone Co.
(Bell Canada)
- 4) Model Rail layout of "OLD RUTHERGLEN" and the site of the first Spike driven between the Canadian Central Railway & Canadian Pacific by President Dungan McIntrye and his managers which was endorsed by Queen Victoria.
- 5) An Archive that will collect and preserve the world's largest public access to family history pretaining to the Bonfield Township an area.
- 6) Within our visions, a posible tour train excursion running the escarpments from North Bay Ontario to the Rutherglen Park for viewing & picnic rest stop.

We ask your firm in kindness in sharing, to contact us in making this Canadian Dream as a worth while venture by financial donations, artifacts for exhibits, and collections to established the Bonfield Township Ontario Museum/Archive.

Sincerely Yours



Retired - CP Conductor - Engineer
Vice President - "The Steel Rail Group"



VICTOR FEDELI, MPP
Nipissing

Constituency Office:
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North Bay, Ontario P1B 1B2
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August 30, 2025

Steve Philpott
Steel Rail Group
413 Jonson Road
Corbeil, ON
POH 1K0

Re: Support for Steel Rail Group's application to the Ontario Heritage Trust Provincial Plaque Program.

Dear Mr. Philpott,

Please consider this our letter of support for Steel Rail Group's application to the Ontario Heritage Trust Provincial Plaque Program.

An Ontario Heritage Trust plaque would showcase the important part Rutherglen and Bonfield played in provincial and federal history to complete Canada's transnational railway. We believe your application would be a good fit for the Ontario Heritage Provincial Plaque Program's goal to enliven Ontario's history to enrich our sense of place and introduce Ontario's unique character of regions and communities.

We are pleased to support your application to the Ontario Heritage Trust Provincial Plaque Program to bring awareness to the important role Rutherglen and Bonfield played in the transnational railway connecting Eastern Canada and Western Canada.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Vic Fedeli".

Vic Fedeli
MPP Nipissing

NIPISSING RAILWAY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September 16, 2025

Steve Philpott
Steel Rail Group
413 Johnson Road
Corbeil, ON POH 1K0

Re: Support for Steel Rail Group's application to the Ontario Heritage Trust Provincial Plaque Program

Dear Mr. Philpott,

On behalf of the Nipissing Railway Historical Society (NRHS), I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Steel Rail Group's application to the Ontario Heritage Trust for a provincial plaque commemorating the Canadian Pacific Railway at Rutherglen/Bonfield.

As an organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the railway heritage of the Nipissing region, the NRHS recognizes the profound importance of this site in both Ontario's and Canada's history. In 1881, Callander Station (now Bonfield, Ontario) was designated as the western terminus of the Canada Central Railway in the Act of Parliament that incorporated the Canadian Pacific Railway. This point marked the transition between Eastern Canada's established rail network and the new line that would extend westward toward the Pacific. From here, the CPR would begin construction of its Eastern Section, marking the place where the rails would push westward toward the Pacific, ultimately connecting the nation from coast to coast.

Commemorating this moment with a provincial plaque will ensure that residents and visitors alike understand the critical role Bonfield and Rutherglen played in uniting our country. The Ontario Heritage Trust's plaque program is intended to enliven history and enrich our sense of place. This plaque will honor the people, the engineering achievements, and the vision that laid the foundation for modern Canada.

We commend the Steel Rail Group for leading this important initiative and urge the Ontario Heritage Trust to approve your application. This is a fitting tribute to Bonfield and Rutherglen and to the enduring legacy of rail in shaping the history and identity of Northern Ontario and Canada.

Kind regards,

Bill Love, President
Nipissing Railway Historical Society

THE STEEL RAIL GROUP

"Ontario Heritage Provincial Plaque & Museum Project"

Dear Contributor:

The Steel Rail group with visions of development of a Historical Archive & Museum to celebrate Bonfield Township within its unique relationship with the Canadian Pacific Railway and the history of Canada.

A donation from your company/firm will entice advance economic development in Bonfield Township in Ontario.

You may have two options.

- 1) Your donations would be kindly accepted
by one of the members below...
or
- 2) Hand delivery your donations at the
Caisse Populaire in Bonfield Ontario or

E-transfer to "THE STEEL RAIL" account.

Banking Address - 230 Yonge St.,

Bonfield Ontario, Canada

POH 1E0...

Group Members:

President -Steve Philpott (705) 303-2200 [stevephilpott4@gmail.com]

Vice President - Elmer Rose (705) 498-4442 [krista_42@hotmail.com]

Treasure/Sec. - Caren Gagne (705) 493-3093 [kiwil@bell.net]

Bonfield Caisse Populaire (705) 776-2831