

## **INFORMATION RELEASE**

### **CLARIFYING THE RAILWAY ENVIRONMENT IN THE ARNPRIOR AND RENFREW AREAS**

(Ottawa, ON – Monday, Aug 8, 2011) With parts of the CP rail line from Smiths Falls north-west through Arnprior to the Cobden area in the process of removal, confusion over the removal and retention of specific rail lines in and around Arnprior and Renfrew persists. The following should clarify the railway environment in the upper Ottawa Valley and the Pontiac.

At present, both Canadian Pacific and Canadian National have rail infrastructure interests in the upper Ottawa valley. As RailAmerica's Ottawa Valley Railway has discontinued service on the CP line between Smiths Falls and Mattawa, CP, on August 4, 2011, began phase one of track removal from a point between Pembroke and Cobden working southeast through Renfrew and Arnprior toward Smiths Falls. The initial process includes track and tie dismantling of approximately 25 miles (40 KM) on the line (known as the Chalk River Subdivision). Thus in the extreme short term, work trains assigned to track removal may be seen in and through Renfrew and Arnprior on any given day. Other sections of the line are slated for removal later this year and into 2012.

Canadian National's Beachburg Subdivision skirts Arnprior to the east crossing into Quebec at Fitzroy Harbour. Just east of the bridge at Fitzroy Harbour, a spur runs west off the main line at a point known as Nepean Junction. The spur was originally part of CN's Renfrew Subdivision, but is now owned by Nylene Canada Inc for in and outbound shipping. The line terminates at the plant. Just east of the Nylene facility, another short spur branches southwest crossing Madawaska Blvd. West of Fitzroy Harbour, the Beachburg Subdivision runs through the Pontiac in Quebec before returning to Ontario at Portage du Fort, about 10 miles (16 KM) east of Renfrew. The line then continues through Renfrew County northwest through Beachburg to Pembroke.

Transport Pontiac-Renfrew (TPR) is actively pursuing acquisition of the Beachburg Subdivision from CN to ensure service remains in place to a number of clients along the line on both sides of the Ottawa River.

When CP's track removal operations are complete, and assuming TPR acquires the Beachburg Subdivision from CN, the only remaining rail into Arnprior proper will be the Renfrew Subdivision spur to Nylene.

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