

Pontiac and Renfrew counties

are actively pursuing ownership of the CN line known as the Beachburg Sub running from Pembroke to Ottawa.



Urgent action is

underway within all levels of government to acquire the line. As is the case throughout most of North America, when the 'steel disappears, it never reappears'. CN has placed the line on the abandonment list.

Industry has told us rail is a crucial requirement for economic growth in the region.

Formerly owned by Ottawa Central Railway, a division of the former Quebec Railway Corporation, the Beachburg Sub is a vital link to economic growth and commercial viability in both Pontiac and Renfrew Counties.

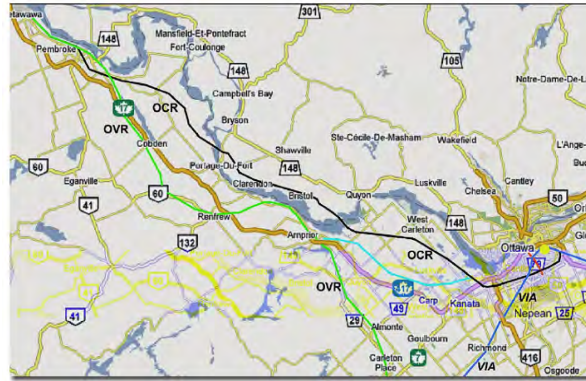
We need your support to Save the Rail.

How you can get involved

- Sign the Save the Rail petition
- Support your local Chamber of Commerce in their efforts to save the Rail
- Visit the Transport Pontiac Renfrew website to share your opinions, stay informed and view the event to come.

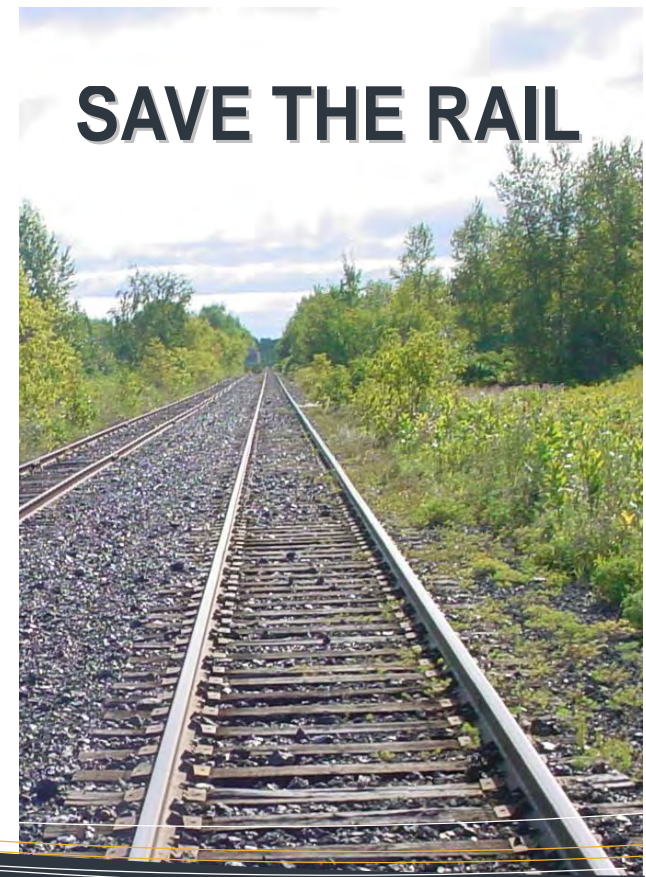
www.TransportPontiac-Renfrew.ca

The Beachburg Sub



Formerly belonging to the Ottawa Central Railway (OCR). The Beachburg Sub runs from Pembroke, ON, southeast crossing into Portage-du-Fort, QC and back into Ontario at Fitzroy Harbour before heading into Ottawa.

SAVE THE RAIL



It's time to take action...
Save the Rail Line!

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Executive Director
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Sign the petition!

This initiative is developed in cooperation with Renfrew County CFDC and SADC Pontiac Community Futures

Visit Transport Pontiac Renfrew Online to express your opinions and get the latest on Rail development:
www.TransportPontiac-Renfrew.ca

SAVE THE RAIL

ONCE IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE FOREVER...

The clock is ticking. Most industry in Pontiac and Renfrew Counties requiring shipping to and from national and international markets need rail to be economically viable.

Business Advantages with Freight

- New Industrial Parks
- Reload Centres
- Container facilities
- Shipping Options
- Cost efficient access to world markets



IN THE BEGINNING - "RAIL DAY"

In October, 2008, following months of planning, Ottawa Central Railway (OCR), SADC Pontiac Community Futures and Renfrew County CFDC presented a "rail day" from Ottawa to Beachburg and back. The special train carried a variety of politicians, including local mayors, city councilors, county reeves and wardens along with a variety of media. The excursion was a resounding success and clearly demonstrated the need and the will to deliver commuter service from the upper Ottawa Valley and Western Quebec into the Nation's Capital.

Freight and Commuter service will revitalize Pontiac and Renfrew Counties

Our Economic Future is Dependant on Rail

Freight: Economic Advantage

From 1998 to 2008, Ottawa Central Railway saw steadily improving carload stats and revenues along the Beachburg Sub. However, the recent slumping economy contributed to operational concerns and outright plant and industrial closures in the region. Now with the economy slowly rebounding, research conducted by RailFuture Group Inc indicates shipping by rail is critically vital to rejuvenating the industrial base in Pontiac and Renfrew Counties.

Passenger: Cost effective, efficient and comfy!

A recent RailFuture Group study concerning commuter rail preferences and usage along the Beachburg sub revealed that cost, convenience and travel time would figure most prominently as a requirement*. Reasons for use including work, shopping, and entertainment scored highest in reasons to use rail*. A study among tourist operators to review value and usage is underway by RailFuture Group.

*courtesy: RailFuture Group

RAIL DEVELOPMENT FAST FACTS



Commuter Train Survey Results

Conducted in 2009, the commuter rail survey generated over 600 responses between the Pontiac and Renfrew Counties. Among many findings, 55% of work-bound commuters would board if such a service were in operation. In addition, 35% indicated shopping would be a primary reason to use the service.*

Freight Service

While in operation with OCR, and prior to the economic slow-down, the freight service in the Pontiac and Renfrew counties was a profitable business and will be again. Freight is essential for the survival of our current businesses and the future development of our region.

Wakefield Steam Train

The closure of the Wakefield Steam Train in 2008 caused a 40% decrease in business revenues. This event was solely responsible for such an impact on the local economy.

Changing Travel Patterns

Train stations are known to act as local hubs. Through keeping our tracks, the stations created will change the current travel patterns of our commuters, resulting in increased visits and spending in the town centers.

Improving our Quality of Life

Pontiac and Renfrew Counties are working together to keep the rail line active in the area and improve the quality of life of the residents.



"Save The Rail"

Pontiac County and Renfrew County, two counties in two provinces working together for their economic survival and future prosperity

Sign the petition!