

Teen shaken in train-wagon collision

MOUNTAIN — A 17-year-old helping to harvest corn escaped injury Mon., Sept. 13 when a CPR freight train shattered a forage wagon at a farm crossing only one-quarter mile away from the scene of a July derailment.

Neal Bartholomew, a grade 12 student, managed to accelerate the tractor out of the path of the train when he reached the crossing. However, the wagon following was sheared away, pulling the drawbar and rear equipment right out of the tractor.

Total damage to the farm equipment is estimated at \$9,100. Damage to the front of the engine is, as yet, undetermined, according to CPR officials in Toronto. The condition of the farm cross-

ing where the accident occurred has been a cause for concern for Dave Bryan and his wife, Carol, owners of the farm, since 1977.

And just hours previous to the accident, the Bryans called CPR in Smiths Falls to report poor visibility at the crossing.

The accident is the second in 66 days within a one-quarter mile stretch of track, just east of Mountain. A major derailment shattered the morning silence Sat., July 10 when 24 of 81 cars derailed at the Arnold Johnston farm.

The Bryan farm crossing is elevated above field level with a steep incline on the north side of the double tracks and a slightly better incline on the south side.

Dense brush on the CPR right-of-way obscures the view of the tracks during the approach from both sides of the crossing.

Mr. Bartholomew was travelling north across the tracks when he first saw the westbound train approaching.

"Thank goodness he didn't just freeze," Mr. Bryan said with relief the next day. The teenager managed to accelerate the tractor off the tracks and was unhurt when the corn wagon was demolished.

Debris from the collision littered the right-of-way several hundred feet from the point of impact, and some was found in adjacent fields.

The accident report, signed by a CPR official on board the train,

indicated visibility at the crossing "is poor".

The engine of the 53-car freight train suffered a broken windshield and some body damage.

The Bryans' call to CPR was to request brush be cut along the tracks to improve visibility.

Five years ago, after considerable correspondence and discussion, CPR cut brush and put two loads of gravel at the steep crossing.

"We go across there with pretty big machinery, including a 150-horsepower tractor and the forage wagon," Mr. Bryan said.

"As recently as the last train wreck, I said to Carol — 'We're just playing with luck,'" Mr. Bryan said.



The farm crossing where a CPR freight train collided with Bryan's farm equipment has steep grades leading up the double tracks. Brush along the right-of-way restricted visibility at the time of the crash. Debris from the collision lies on the track bed in the foreground.

Dave Bryan surveyed some of the shattered, twisted wreckage of the corn wagon smashed by a freight train at his farm crossing last week. Corn and debris from the collision settled far down the tracks and some pieces of the wagon had to be retrieved from adjoining fields.

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Accident crossing may be taken out

MOUNTAIN — Preliminary indications are that the farm crossing where a train-corn wagon collision occurred last week will be closed.

Officials from the Canadian Transport Commission (CTC) and the CPR, investigating the accident last week, appear to favor re-opening a crossing directly behind the Bryan farm buildings, according to Carol Bryan.

Crash kills

Brinston man,

MOUNTAIN — One person was killed and five escaped with minor injuries in a two-car collision at the entrance to a restaurant here Friday night.

Dead is 21-year-old Derek Arthur Hill, RR1 Brinston, who was a passenger in a 1980 Pontiac driven by Thomas Hamilton, also of RR1 Brinston.

According to the police report,

the Hamilton vehicle was northbound on County Road 1 in Mountain and made a left-hand turn into the driveway of the Stage West Restaurant. The car was struck on the passenger side by a 1973 Buick, driven by Patricia Trudell, Kemptville, which was southbound on County Road 1.

Const. Bill Holmes charged Hamilton with making an unsafe left turn under section 121 of the Highway Traffic Act.

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Mountain Musings

I saw an interesting thing the other day which still has me wondering. The railway men were out working on the tracks near my home with quite a few of those big machines. Then I noticed one of the workers climb down from the cab and crouch to put his ear to the rail. He then did the same thing with the other track. Gosh, I thought it was only kids who listened at the rails to get warning that a train was coming. Anyway, whether it was modern technology or old-fashioned savvy, it worked. When the train trundled past shortly after, the machines were on the other line.