

# OSHAWA-WATERLOO, ONTARIO REGISTERED LETTER

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Many of the articles in the Railway Post Office (RPO) Study Group focus upon “hammer analysis.” This research concentrates upon distinguishing one postmarking device from another for a particular route, as well as documenting the earliest and latest known usage.

An appreciation of the speedy RPO service in Canada is illustrated by examining Registered Mail covers. Distributing offices—including RPOs—added backstamps indicating a chain of custody for the precious letter. For a RPO historian today, they form the research basis for how mail was handled expeditiously within the Canadian Railway Mail Service. Although regular first-class letters did not receive back-stamps, in most cases the service was similar during the same era and origin-destination pairs.

This article will focus upon a registered letter mailed at the Oshawa post office to a Waterloo addressee, both in Ontario. The envelope front appears in Figure 1 while the reverse side is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 1 - May 28, 1937, registered letter to Waterloo, Ontario.

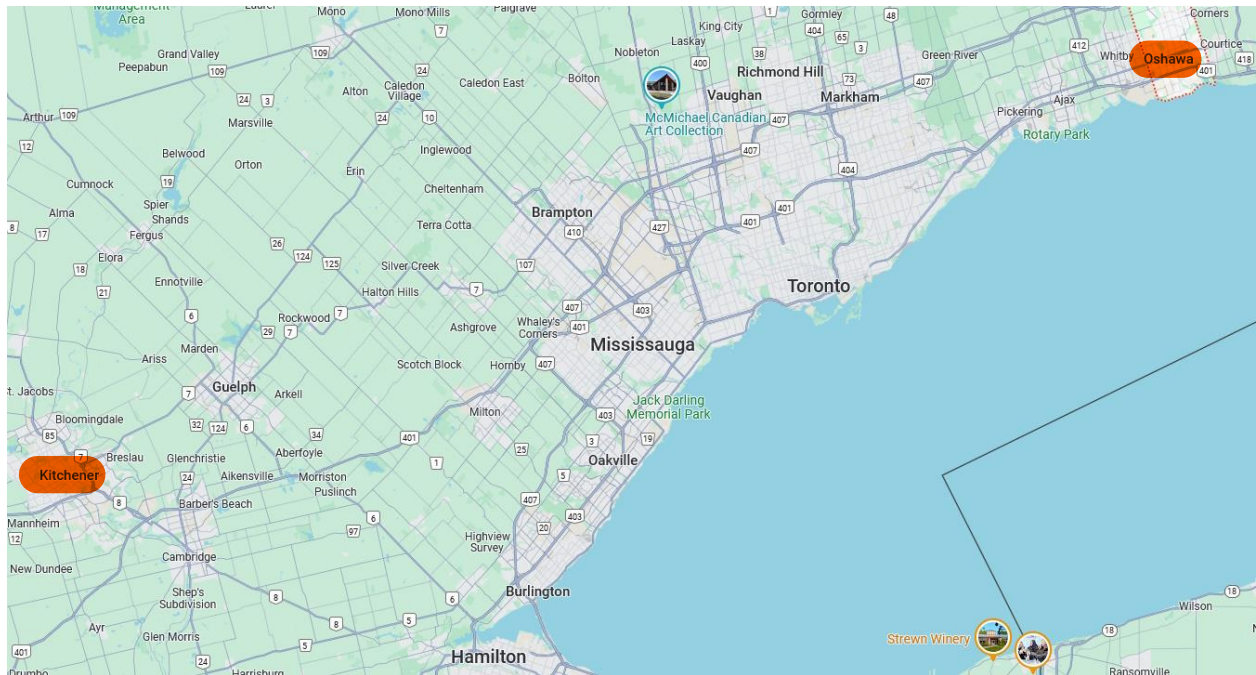


**Figure 2** - Registered letter to Waterloo, Ontario, May 28, 1937, received May 29th, 1937.

The table below summarizes all the RPO segments over which this letter traveled, which includes routes for which no backstamp appears on the cover reverse side. Although the letter received next-day delivery, the actual transit time en route was under ten hours.

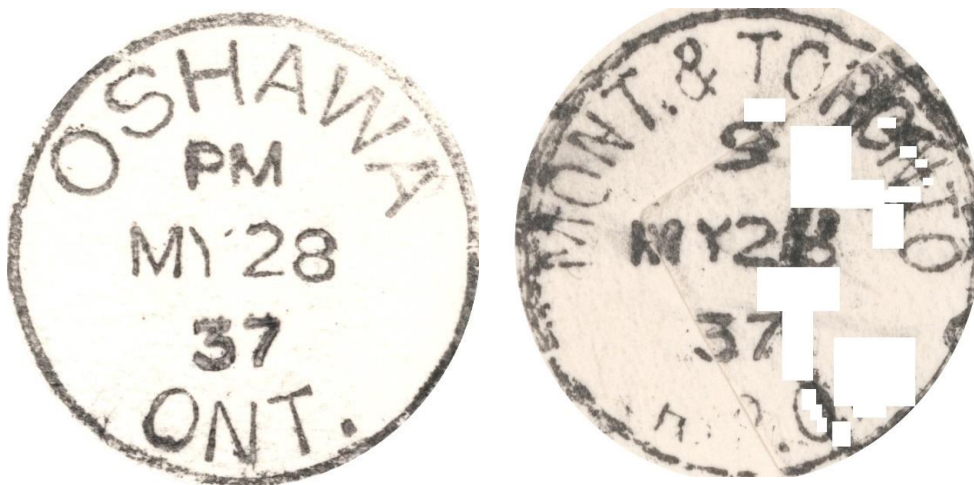
ROUTE	DATE	RECEIVED	DISPATCHED	TIME	MILES
Oshawa, Ontario Post Office	5/28/1937	6:00 PM (estimated)	7:00 PM (estimated)	1'0"	0
Oshawa Post Office to Depot	5/28/1937	7:00 PM (estimated)	7:30 PM (estimated)	0'30"	1
Montreal & Toronto – Kingston & Toronto RPO Train 9	5/28/1937	7:50 PM	8:50 PM	1'0"	33
Toronto, Ontario Registry Terminal	5/28/1937	9:00 PM	10:30 PM (estimated)	1'30"	0
Toronto & Hamilton RPO Train 9	5/28-29/1937	11:45 PM	12:45 AM	1'0"	39
Hamilton & Windsor RPO Train 9	5/29/1937	1:00 AM	3:22 AM	2'22"	81
London & Owen Sound RPO Train 168	5/29/1937	7:00 AM	8:02 AM	1'02"	33
Toronto, Stratford & Goderich Train 28	5/29/1937	8:10 AM	8:57 AM	0'47"	26
Kitchener Station to Waterloo Post Office	5/29/1937	11:40 AM	12:10 PM	0'30"	1
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>9'41"</b>	<b>214</b>

A present-day highway map shows the location of Oshawa to the East and Waterloo –a suburb of Kitchener—at the left.



**Figure 3** - Current highway map depicting the relative locations of Oshawa and Waterloo, near Kitchener.

Oshawa dispatched this letter to the Montreal & Toronto RPO Train 5-9. The Ontario Distribution List in Figure 5 indicates the route as the Kingston & Toronto RPO. Train 9 was a short-run of the Montreal & Toronto route between Belleville and Toronto.



**Figure 4** - Cover postmark and "M&T" RPO backstamp for train 9. Train 9 was a short-run between Kingston and Toronto. The white areas in these and other postmark illustrations are attempts to remove other overlaying backstamp features for postmark clarity.



OFFICE	DISTRIBUTION		
*Oshawa.....	K. & T.....		Dy. tr. 18. Sat. tr. 5. Dy. trs. 19, 14. Dy. ex. Sat. tr. 9. Dy. ex. Sat. tr. 10 C.N.R. Sat. tr. 110. <i>See list for details</i> Dy. tr. 4 v. tr. 14 C.N.R. Dy. ex. Mon. tr. 46 v. tr. 14 C.N.R.
	Toronto.....		
	Tor. & Sud.....		
	T. & A.....		

ONTARIO DISTRIBUTION—Con.

5

SCHEDULE showing names of railways from which Post Offices in Ontario are served; the terminal points of the several Postal Car routes or sections of Postal Car routes on these Railways and the abbreviation by which these terminal points are designated in the following Distribution List. (The names of Railway Post Offices are given in all cases from East to West and from South to North.)

Abbreviations in Distribution List	Name of Railway	Terminal Routes between which Postal Cars run	
K. & T.....	Can. Nat. (Belle. & Tor. Div.).....	Kingston.....	Toronto
T. & A.....	Can. Nat. (North-Ont. Div.).....	Toronto.....	Allandale
Tor. & Sud.....	C.P.R. (Ont. & Algoma Div.).....	Toronto.....	Sudbury

**Figure 5 - 1937 Ontario Distribution List** - excerpt for Oshawa post office. All possible dispatches and receipts for this office are shown within the brackets. This letter was dispatched to the "K&T" train 9 which operated daily except Saturdays.

The "M&T" is a legendary route, linking two major metropolitan areas with intermediate post offices as well as those throughout Canada beyond its termini. Full 60-foot mail cars staffed with approximately ten clerks performed both city and province distribution. The M&T was a river of mail and truly the backbone of the Canadian Railway Mail Service. Long may it last in our memories as well as post office historical research.



**Figure 6** - A segment of a Canadian National Railways map showing the route from Oshawa to Hamilton, Ontario. Source: **OFFICIAL GUIDE OF THE RAILWAYS**, March 1940, Page 1062.

Westbound **Montreal & Toronto, R.P.O.**  
**F 19367** (Canadian National Railways.—333.84 miles)

Train No. 5-9	Miles from Mont- real.	Time Table Nos. 43 and 62 Sept. 26, 1937	Route 206.
R. P. O. Dy.-6			
A.M. R 9.15	.00	.....	MONTREAL .....
P.M. D 2.10	220.66	B.....	BELLEVILLE .....
R 5.50	232.80	B.....	BELLEVILLE .....
E 6.10	232.80	B.....	TRENTON .....
E 7.50	300.50	B.....	Oshawa .....
D 8.50	333.84	.....	TORONTO .....
P.M.			

Postal Car Tr. 5/9.....60 ft.

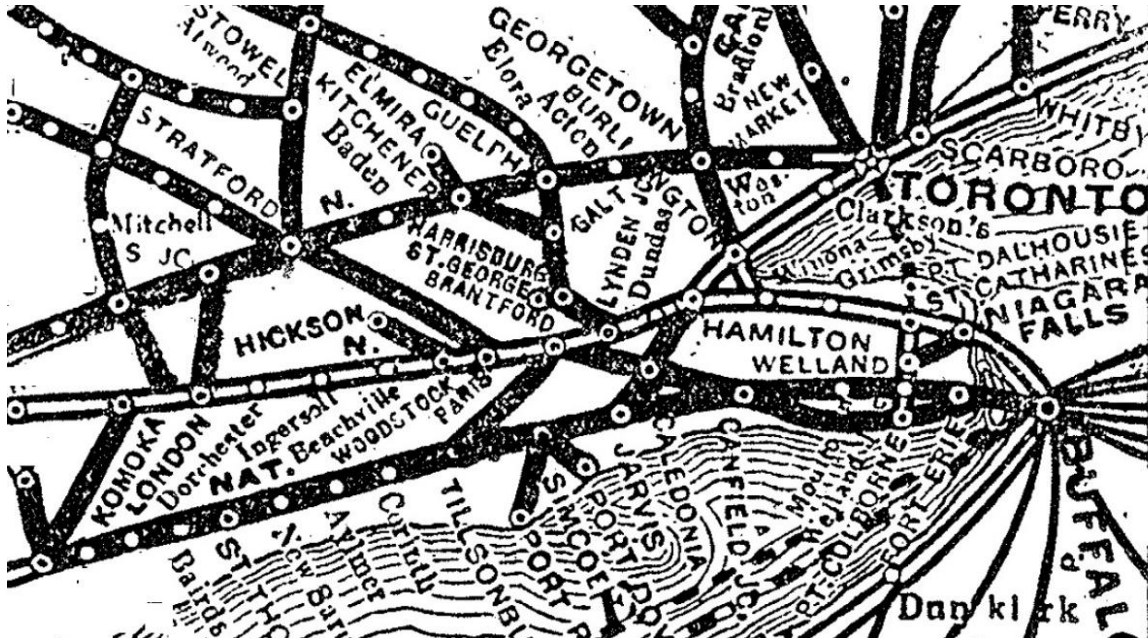
NOTE tr. 5/9 R.P.O. { tr. 5 R.P.O. Montreal to Belleville.  
tr. 9 R.P.O. Belleville to Toronto.

**Figure 7** - Edited schedule from Canada Central District **SCHEDULE OF MAIL TRAINS** #195, 1937, page 042, MONTREAL & TORONTO RPO, Train 9.



**Figure 8** - Toronto Terminal "A" Registry Division backstamp.

The Toronto Registry Division received the letter and made a new dispatch via closed pouch to the Toronto & Hamilton and the Hamilton & Windsor RPOs. This route's postmark does not appear as a backstamp since the letter was not distributed on the train by a registry clerk. It is a "missing link" in the postmark chain to reach London for the trip over the London & Owen Sound RPO. The route is shown in the Figure 9 map and schedules for these two routes appear in Figure 10.



**Figure 9** - A segment of a Canadian National Railways map showing the route from Toronto to Hamilton and London, Ontario. Source: **OFFICIAL GUIDE OF THE RAILWAYS**, March 1940, Page 1063.





Figure 11 - London, Wiarton & Owen Sound RPO Train 168 along with the Toronto, Stratford and Goderich RPO Train 28 backstamps.

**Toronto & Hamilton R.P.O.**  
(Canadian National Railways.—39.29 miles)

Tr. 9	Miles from Tor- onto.	ROUTE 220. Time Table No. 64 Sept. 26, 1937 F25933
R. P.O. Dy*—6		
P.M. R 11.45	.00	TORONTO.....
	12.80	B... Port Credit.....
	15.02	... Lorne Park.....
		{ ... Erindale.....
		{ ... Sheridan.....
		{ ... Clarkson.....
	16.11	... (Clarkson Stn.) ...
	21.36	B... Oakville.....
		{ ... Palermo.....
		{ ... Bronte.....
	25.61	... (Bronte Stn.).....
		{ ... Burlington.....
		{ ... Freeman.....
		... Port Nelson.....
	32.00	... (Burlington Stn.)...
		{ ... Waterdown.....
		{ ... Aldershot.....
		{ ... Willow Cove.....
	34.88	... (Aldershot Stn.)...
D 12.45 A.M.	39.29	B... HAMILTON.....

**Hamilton & Windsor R.P.O.**  
(Canadian National Railways—190.95 miles.)

Train No. 9	Miles from Ham- ilton	ROUTE 253 Time Table No. 64 Sept. 26, 1937
R.P.O. Dy		
P.M. 11.45	39.29	..... Toronto.....
R 1.00	.00	B..... HAMILTON.....
		{ ... Dundas.....
		{ ... West. Flamborough.....
	7.09	... (at Dundas Stn.).....
	12.02	... Copetown.....
		..... Lynden.....
E 1.44	25.40	B..... BRANTFORD.....
		B { ... PARIS.....
		{ ... Paris Stn.....
	32.66	... (at Paris).....
	40.28	... Princeton.....
	42.50	... Gobles.....
	47.47	... Eastwood.....
	51.98	B..... WOODSTOCK.....
	56.88	... Beachville.....
d 2.57	61.43	B..... Ingersoll.....
	70.92	... Dorchester.....
D 3.22	80.63	B..... LONDON.....

Figure 10 - Edited schedules from Canada Central District **SCHEDULE OF MAIL TRAINS** #195, 1937, pages 070 and 092, for the TORONTO & HAMILTON and the HAMILTON & WINDSOR RPOs, Train 9.

**London, Wiarton & Owen Sound R.P.O.**  
(L. & P.—P.W. & O.S.)  
(Canadian National Railways—140.92 miles)

Train No. 168	Miles from London	ROUTE 261	Time Table No. 64 Sept. 26, 1937
R.P.O. Dy			
A.M.			
R 7.00	0	B.....	LONDON....
.....	2.76	.....	London Sub. 10.
E 7.21	10.56	.....	Thorndale....
E 7.30	15.51	.....	Belton.....
E 7.42	21.51	B.....	St. Mary's....
E 7.53	27.33	.....	St. Paul's Sta..
D 8.02	32.62	AB.....	STRATFORD.

**Figure 12** - Edited schedule from Canada Central District **SCHEDULE OF MAIL TRAINS** #195, 1937, page 104, for the LONDON, WIARTON & OWEN SOUND RPO, Train 168.

**Toronto, Stratford & Goderich R.P.O.**  
(Tor. & Strat. & S. & G.)  
Canadian National Railways 134.30 miles

Miles from Toron- to	F 21788	Time Table No. 64 Sept. 26, 1937	ROUTE 279	Train No. 28 R.P.O. Dy
				A.M.
.00	B.....	TORONTO .....	P	D 11.10
.....	{.....	Kitchener Station .....		
.....	{.....	Kitchener .....	P	E .....
.....	{.....	Waterloo .....	P	E .....
62.65	.....	(at Kitchener Stn.) .....		8.57
.....	{.....	Petersburg .....	E	.....
.....	{.....	St. Agatha .....	E	.....
.....	{.....	Bamberg .....	E	.....
.....	{.....	New Dundee .....	E	.....
69.16	.....	(at Petersburg Stn.) .....		8.44
.....	{.....	Baden .....	E	.....
.....	{.....	Wellesley .....	E	.....
72.52	.....	(at Baden Stn.) .....		8.37
75.02	B.....	New Hamburg .....	E	8.32
82.08	.....	Shakespeare .....	E	8.21
88.58	A B.....	STRATFORD .....	P L	R 8.10

**Figure 13** - Edited schedule from Canada Central District **SCHEDULE OF MAIL TRAINS** #195, 1937, page 116, for the TORONTO, STRATFORD & GODERICH RPO, Train 28.



As one will observe, the Toronto, Stratford and Goderich RPO might have been the most direct route, but the intermediate backstamps suggest that the additional overall distance was offset by route speed and frequency. Waterloo was served by dispatches from the Toronto, Stratford and Goderich "T&S" RPO in Figure 14. The letter was transported from the Kitchener depot to the Waterloo post office via motor vehicle service as shown in Figure 15.

OFFICE	DISTRIBUTION		
*Waterloo.....	H. & L.....		Dy. tr. 9 v. tr. 10.
	Lon. & Wind.....		Dy. tr. 10 v. tr. 10.
	Lon. & Palm.....		Dy. tr. 170 v. tr. 20.
	T. & S.....		Dy. trs. 28, 29, 37, 36.
	Toronto.....		Dy. tr. 9 v. trs. 10, <del>11</del> .
	Elmira.....		Dy. 7.00 a.m., tr. 324.
	St. Jacobs.....		Dy. 7.40 a.m., tr. 324.
	K. & Tor.....		Dy. tr. 19 v. tr. 29.
	London.....		Dy. tr. 10.
	Kitchener.....		Dy. 5.45 a.m., 10.45 a.m., 5.20 p.m., 8.50 p.m.

SCHEDULE showing names of railways from which Post Offices in Ontario are served; the terminal points of the several Postal Car routes or sections of Postal Car routes on these Railways and the abbreviation by which these terminal points are designated in the following Distribution List. (The names of Railway Post Offices are given in all cases from East to West and from South to North.)

Abbreviations in Distribution List	Name of Railway	Terminal Routes between which Postal Cars run	
H. & L.....	Can. Nat. (Lon. & Strat. Div.).....	Hamilton.....	London
L. & P.....	Can. Nat. (Lon. & Strat. Div.).....	London.....	Palmerston
Lon. & Wind....	Can. Nat. (Lon. & Strat. and St. Thos. Div.).....	London.....	Windsor
T. & S.....	Can. Nat. (Lon. & Strat. Div.).....	Toronto.....	Stratford

**Figure 14 - 1937 Ontario Distribution List** - excerpt for Waterloo post office. All possible dispatches and receipts for this office are shown within the brackets.

<b>Kitchener &amp; Waterloo, M.V.S.</b> (Kitchener Public Utilities Com.—2.17 miles)												
Sig.	Trip H	Trip F	Trip D	Trip B	Miles from Kitch- ener	—	Trip A	Trip C	Trip E	Trip G	Trip I	Sig.
	Dy	Dy	Dy	Dy			Dy	Dy	Dy	Dy	Dy	
..	P.M. R 7.30	P.M. R 4.50	A.M. R 11.40	A.M. R 7.00	0.00	.. KITCHENER..	A.M. D 9.10	A.M. D 11.40	P.M. D 5.00	P.M. D 8.15	P.M. 11.28	b
a	D 8.30	D 5.10	D 12.10	D 7.30	2.17	.. WATERLOO..	R 8.25	R 11.20	R 4.40	R 7.10	R 11.08	..
All Trains						All Trains						
a—Receive from Kitchener						b—Receive from Waterloo						

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**Figure 15** - "Last Mile" transportation via the Kitchener & Waterloo Motor Vehicle Service (MVS). Center District **SCHEDULE OF MAIL TRAINS** #195, page 098.



**Figure 16** - Waterloo post office backstamp, proving next morning receipt on May 29, 1937.

## Acknowledgements

**Peter McCarthy** put me on the path for the “missing link” connection between Toronto and London, as well as proofreading the draft article. Although he said, “You sure have developed quite a story out of rather common R.P.O. markings,” the cover tells the story; I don't. Sometimes the most common markings combine to accurately depict the Canadian Railway Mail Service during its shining days.

In memory of *Ed Maloney* and *Graham Noble* for whom the RMS Library is indebted to have the primary source material that supported this research, this article is for you both.

## Supplementary Information

Information from the 1937 **Ontario Distribution List** as well as the tables from which RPO schedules were extracted are included. Some information for other provinces and routes is available in the Railway Mail Service Library collection.

### DISTRIBUTION FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO CONTAINING

1. The names of the Post Offices alphabetically arranged.
2. The names of the Postal Car Routes, Sections of Postal Car Routes or Distributing Offices through which matter for the several offices should pass.
3. The names of the Offices to which the matter is forwarded by the Railway Mail Clerks or Distributing offices when not mailed direct (Direct mails are indicated by dotted lines).
4. The names of the Mail Routes by which the Offices are served when not situated on a line of Railway. When an Office is served by two or more routes the hours of departure from the several terminal points are given.
5. The (a) (b) or (1) after the name of R.P.O. route indicates offices near a transfer point. Mail for such offices should be kept separate to permit prompt sortation, and avoid *overcarrying* by the route receiving.
6. "Nixie List" of former post offices, closed or names changed.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Matter for any Office which is supplied by more than one Route should be forwarded by the one by which it will most speedily reach its destination. R.P.O. routes are given first. Baggage Car and Stage Services are shown in last column.
2. In case of change of name, the old name should be erased from the list and "*changed to* ....." (the new name) written opposite to the erasure. Opposite the entry of the new name should be written "*formerly* ....." (the old name).
3. It is the duty of the District Directors and Superintendents Postal Service and Postmasters *personally* to see that the Distribution Books furnished to each Clerk under their supervision are corrected by the Lists issued from the Post Office Department, Office of the Chief Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, Ottawa.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.  
Office of Chief Superintendent,  
Railway Mail Service,  
OTTAWA.

3,100 Bks. 27-8-37.

Revised to List No. 21, October, 1937.

Book 75.

Figure 17 - 1937 **Ontario Distribution List**, page 002.



F 19367 Westbound—Read down								Montreal & Toronto, R.P.O. (Canadian National Railways.—333-84 miles)								Eastbound—Read up. Route 206.								
Train No. 333	Train No. 25	Train No. 17	Train No. 19	Train No. 5	Train No. 5	Train No. 5-9	Miles from Montreal.	Time Table Nos. 43 and 62 Sept. 26, 1937								Train No. 14	Train No. 14	Train 118-13	Train No. 18	Train No. 16	Train No. 26	Train No. 10		
B.C. Dy.	R.P.O. Dy.	B.C. Dy.*-6	R.P.O. Dy.*	B.C. Dy.*-6	R.P.O. 6	R.P.O. Dy.-6										R.P.O. Dy.	B.C. 7	R.P.O. 7	R.P.O. Dy.	B.C. Dy.*	R.P.O. Dy.	B.C. Dy.		
A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.										P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.		
	R 5.20	r 11.15	R 9.00	St. 9.15	R 9.15	R 9.15	00	MONTREAL								D 5.15	d 5.15	D 6.30	D 6.30	d 7.45	D 10.15			
	R 5.34							{ Lachine (Dominion Sta.)																
							10-31	{ Dorval Sta.													R 9.49			
								{ Ste. Geneviève													R			
								{ Ile Bizard													R			
							15-69	{ Beaconsfield (Beaconsfield Sta.)													R 9.35			
							17-57	{ Beaurepaire																
								{ Gardenvale										D	D					
								{ Macdonald College										D	D					
								{ Senneville										D	D					
								{ Ste. A. de Bellevue (Ste. Annes Sta.)										D	D					
							20-78	{ Vaudreuil										D	D					
								{ Vaudreuil Sta.																
							24-43	{ Les Cèdres																
							29-18	{ Coteau du Lac													R 9.12			
								{ (Wilsonville Sta.)													R			
							34-76	{ COTEAU STATION										D	D		R 9.02			
								{ Coteau Landing										D	D					
							10.02	10.02	{ (Coteau Sta.)								4.23		D	D				
									{ St. Zotique													R 8.50		
									{ Rivière Beaudette													R		
									{ Bainsville													R		
									{ Lancaster													R		
									{ Williamstown (Lancaster Sta.)													R		
							53-94		{ Summerstown Sta.													R 8.20		
							59-57		{ CORNWALL								P 3.50		DR 4.45	DR 4.45	D* 6.13	R 8.10		
							67-64		{ Mille Roches													R 7.58		
							72-49		{ Moulinette													R		
							73-78		{ Wales													R		
									{ Dickinson's Landing (Wales Sta.)													R		
							77-28		{ Farran's Point													R 7.35		
							81-69		{ Aultsville													R 7.27		
							84-15		{ Morrisburg								P					R 7.23		
									{ Williamsburg								P					D		
							11.02	11.02	{ (Morrisburg Sta.)								3.21					D		
									{ Iroquois													R 7.12		
									{ Cardinal													R		
									{ PRESCOTT								P	2.58		DR 3.45	DR 3.45	R 7.02		
									{ Maitland													R		
									{ BROCKVILLE								P	2.35		R 3.10	R 3.10	D* 5.00	R 6.30	
									{ Mallorytown								TC	2.15		D 2.50	D 2.45			
									{ Lansdowne								TC	2.05		D 2.35	D 2.31			
									{ Gananoque													R		
									{ (Gananoque Jct.)															
							12.35	12.35	{ KINGSTON								P	1.55		R 2.22	R 2.15			
							1.05	1.05	{ Collin's Bay													D	8.50	
									{ Bath															
									{ Stella															
									{ (Collins Bay Sta.)															
							180-42		{ Napanee								P							
									{ Deseronto								D							
									{ Marysville								D							
									{ Lonsdale								D							
									{ (Napanee Sta.)															
									{ BELLEVILLE								P	12.55		R 1.10	R 1.05			
									{ TRENTON								P	12.15		R 12.30	R 12.10	D* 2.20	R 4.35	
									{ Brighton								P	11.55		R 12.11	R 11.50			
									{ Colborne								P	11.37					YO 4.04	
									{ Grafton								D	11.25					YO 3.52	
									{ Cobourg								P	11.15		R 11.33	R 10.59		YO 3.41	
									{ PORT HOPE								P	10.55		R 11.23	R 10.46		D 3.31	
									{ Clarke														e 3.22	
									{ (Newcastle Sta.)										ON	11.04				
							7.27	288-36	{ Bowmanville								P	10.35					e 2.53	
									{ Oshawa								P	10.26		R 10.46	R 10.05		e 2.38	
									{ Pt. Whitby								P	10.12					YO	
									{ Whitby															
									{ (Whitby Jct.)															
									{ Pickering								D	10.00		R 10.36	R 9.54		d 2.29	
									{ TORONTO								P	9.52		R 9.15	R 8.46	R 9.05		d 2.20
																	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	
S.A. Tr. 16—7 Dy. 3' Sun. Postal Car Tr. 5/9.....60 ft. Postal Car Tr. 18.....72 ft. Storage Car Tr. 18.....60 ft. S.A. Tr. 5 (Belle.—Tor., 3' Dy.-6																								
S.A. Tr. 17—R.P.O. 6 "																								







## Route 253

9256

**Figure 21** - Canada Central District **SCHEDULE OF MAIL TRAINS** #195, 1937, pages 092-093 for the HAMILTON & WINDSOR RPO.



## ROUTE 261

**Figure 22** - Canada Central District ***SCHEDULE OF MAIL TRAINS*** #195, 1937, page 104, for the LONDON, WIARTON & OWEN SOUND RPO.

**Toronto, Stratford & Goderich R.P.O.**

(Tor. & Strat. & S. & G.)

F 21788

Canadian National Railways 134-30 miles

Route 279

Sig.	Train No. 11 B.C. Dy	Train No. 37 R.P.O. Dy	Train No. 29 R.P.O. Dy	Miles from Toron- to	Time Table No. 64 Sept. 26, 1937	Train No. 28 R.P.O. Dy	Train No. 36 R.P.O. Dy	Train No. 10 B.C. Dy	Sig.	Train No. 20 B.C. Dy	Sig.
d	P.M. R 1.20	P.M. R 5.40	A.M. R 7.30	·00	B.....TORONTO.....P	A.M. D 11.10	P.M. D 7.40	A.M. d 8.05	.....	P.M. d 10.10	d e
				5.04	.....West Toronto.....						
a	D 1.44	E 6.06	E 7.54	8.56	.....Weston.....	E 10.44	E 7.18				
		E 6.17	D 8.04	15.29	B.....Malton.....	E 10.34					
a	d 2.07	E 6.32	E 8.16	21.27	B.....Brampton.....P	E 10.24	E 6.56				
					{.....Norval Stn.....}	E .....					
					{.....Norval.....}	E .....					
		6.44		26.91	{.....(at Norval Stn.).....}	10.13	6.44				
		E 6.52	E 8.34	29.31	B.....GEORGETOWN.....P	E 10.08	E 6.40	7.10		9.17	
				32.49	.....Limehouse.....	E 9.59					
		E 7.07	E 8.48	35.60	B.....Acton.....P	E 9.54	E 6.26				
		E 7.17		41.24	.....Rockwood.....	E 9.45	E 6.17				
ab	e 3.00	D 7.28	D 9.06	48.80	A.B.....GUELPH.....P.L.	R 9.30	R 6.04				
		R 7.38	R 9.15		L.....	D 9.22	D 5.58	e 6.42	abcd	e 8.51	a d e
				58.41	.....Breslau.....	E 9.05	E 5.38				
a b c	e .....	E .....	E .....		{.....Kitchener Station.....}				abcd	r .....	c
a	d .....	E .....	E .....		B.....Kitchener.....P	E .....	E .....	e .....	abcd	e .....	a b d e
	3.27	8.06	9.43	62.65	.....Waterloo.....P	E .....	E .....	e .....	a b	e .....	a d
					{.....(at Kitchener Stn.).....}	8.57	5.30	6.20		8.29	
		E .....	E .....		{.....Petersburg.....}	E .....	E .....				
		E .....	E .....		.....St. Agatha.....	E .....	E .....				
		E .....	E .....		.....Bamberg.....	E .....	E .....				
		E .....	E .....		.....New Dundee.....	E .....	E .....				
		8.16	9.52	69.16	{.....(at Petersburg Stn.).....}	8.44	5.15				
		E .....	E .....		{.....Baden.....}	E .....	E .....				
		E 8.26	E 9.58	72.52	.....Wellesley.....	E .....	E .....				
		E 8.34	E 10.04	75.02	{.....(at Baden Stn.).....}	8.37	5.08				
				82.08	B.....New Hamburg.....	E 8.32	E 5.01				
					.....Shakespeare.....	E 8.21	E 4.51				
a	d 4.10	D 8.58	D 10.25	88.58	A.B.....STRATFORD.....P.L.	R 8.10	R 4.40	r 5.35	b c	R 7.50	a
		Tr. 137	Tr. 629				Tr. 636				
		R 9.05	R 10.40		L.....STRATFORD.....A	D 8.00	D 4.10				
		E 10.52	E 11.06	93.68	.....Sebringville.....	E 7.49	E 3.57				
		E 9.23	E 11.14	101.72	B.....Mitchell.....	E 7.37	E 3.41				
		E 9.36	E 11.19	106.83	B.....Dublin.....	E 7.28	E 3.29				
		E 11.19	E 11.30	109.16	.....St. Columban.....C	E .....	E 3.23				
		E 9.47	E 11.30	113.33	B.....Seaforth.....	E 7.17	E 3.16				
		E 10.00	E 11.45	121.53	B.....CLINTON.....P	E 7.03	E 3.00				
		D 10.25	D 12.05	134.30	B.....GODERICH.....P	R 6.40	R 2.30				

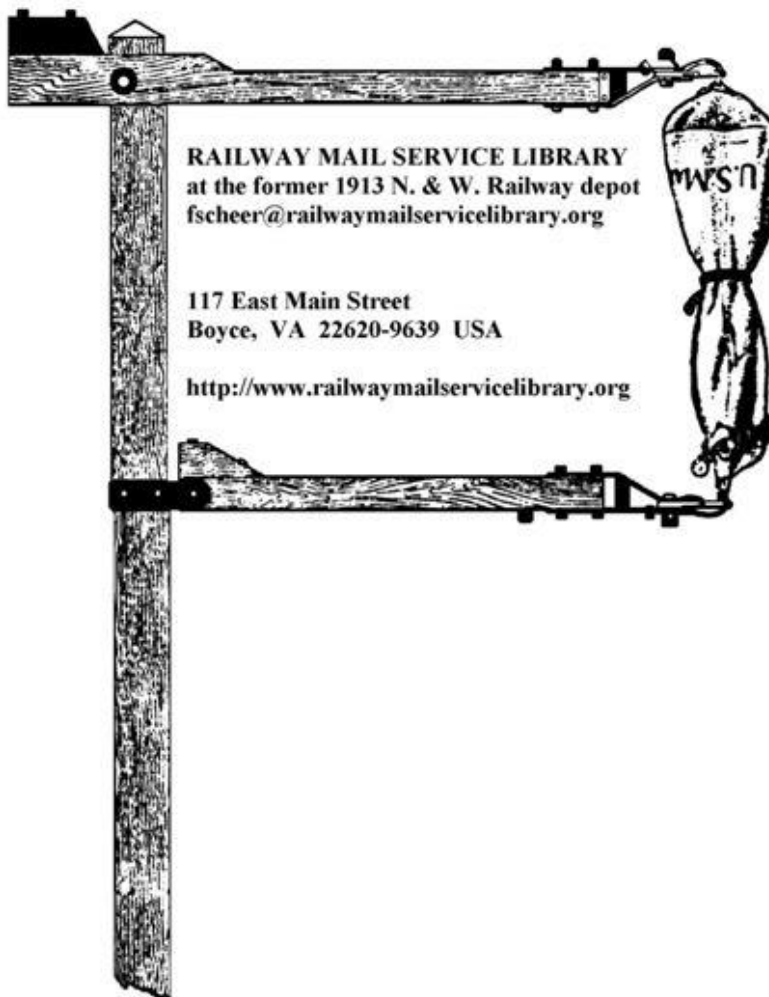
**Figure 23 - Canada Central District SCHEDULE OF MAIL TRAINS #195, 1937, page 116, for the TORONTO, STRATFORD & GODERICH RPO.**



**Figure 24** - Waiting, waiting for the mail at Palmerston, Ontario. This is a 30-foot Railway Post Office apartment car often used on Canadian National mail routes during the 1930s. The letter slot visible at the middle-left edge of the photograph was at the edge of the letter distribution case inside, indicating that the RPO space occupied only half of the car. Many of the RPO connections depicted in the schedules from Oshawa to Waterloo were 30-foot apartment RPOs.



# RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE LIBRARY FOUNDATION



The Railway Mail Service Library Foundation (RMSLF) was chartered on March 3, 2017, organized as a non-profit Virginia corporation for stewardship, preservation, and post office history research of the Railway Mail Service Library collection at Boyce, Virginia.

The chief focus during 2021 will be developing a strong, capable membership base. Those who welcome leadership roles can be nominated by members to the Board of Directors. Officer positions will be filled from the Directors. Officer positions will be filled from the Directors. Elections to the Board of Directors will be made during the fourth membership meeting during November 2021!

Annual membership dues are \$10, payable to the **RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE LIBRARY FOUNDATION**. Life membership is available for \$250. Members and volunteers will initially

support collection sorting, filing, and document conservation. The longer term vision is for the RMSLF to construct and maintain a new building for the collection through a gift from Paul Nagle, a former Railway Mail Clerk who became President of the National Postal Transport Association.

Come join us! Please write to:

## **RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

**rmslf@railwaymailservicelibrary.org**

**117 EAST MAIN STREET**

**BOYCE VA 22620-9639**



## AN OVERVIEW OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE LIBRARY

The Railway Mail Service (RMS) Library is major collection of materials pertaining to en route distribution history. It can assist researchers interested in route agent, Seapost, railway, and highway post office (RPO and HPO) history. The collection has many unique, original-source documents that provide answers to questions dealing with the transportation and distribution of USA Mail between 1862 and 1977, as well as other countries during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The R.M.S. Library has grown from the AmeRPO ("American RPO") Society Library established in the early 1950s by Bryant Alden Long, co-author of the superb book on the subject, **MAIL BY RAIL**. After a period of stagnation it was acquired by Hershel Rankin, who renamed it the R.M.S. Library. When he was 80 years old and no longer to handle research requests, Dr. Frank R. Scheer purchased the collection. Over a two-year period, the collection was moved from Florida to Virginia and renamed the "Railway Mail Service Library." Since 1982, several major additions have been made to the collection. These include the Edwin Bergman scheme and schedule collection, Lloyd Jackson's, John Kay's, Lawrence Kruse's, Anne and Ed Maloney's, and Roy Schmidt's postal artifacts, Carm Cosentino's Transfer Office covers, Charles Scott's Fifth Division RMS records, worldwide postal emblems assembled by Len Cohen, James Mundy's postal locks, Lt. Col (ret) A. B. "Chip" Komoroske's railroad books, H. W. "Red" Reed's post office route maps, John McClelland's 1905 to 1949 bound issues of **THE RAILWAY POST OFFICE**, as well as Paul Nagle's set of the **POSTAL TRANSPORT JOURNAL** between 1950 and 1959. The important Kenneth Wilson - American Postal Workers Accident Benefit Association Collection was received during January 2016, documenting the early history of the Railway Mail Accident Benefit Association that was established in 1891, as well as the Women's Auxiliary of the Railway Mail Association. A multitude of other historically-significant resources have been acquired from many former railway and highway postal clerks.

As with most archival libraries, the principal activities are assisting research inquiries, organizing and filing the collection, as well as preservation of materials. The Railway Mail Service Library Foundation will erect a new Paul Nagle Center for the collection with funding from Mr. Nagle who served as President - National Postal Transport Association. In addition to a secure, climate-controlled library facility, a garage is planned for housing a 1967 Highway Post Office as well as a 1930 Ford Model A mail truck.

These historical materials and artifacts are held by the Railway Mail Service Library Trust. The trust has a loan agreement with the Railway Mail Service Library Foundation for volunteer support in managing the collection and supporting post office history research requests. Inquiries pertaining to RMS Library holdings or persons seeking research assistance should contact the:

**RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE LIBRARY, INC.**  
**fscheer@railwaymailservicelibrary.org - e-Mail**  
**117 EAST MAIN ST**  
**BOYCE VA 22620-9639 USA**



**RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE LIBRARY FOUNDATION**  
**POSTAL HISTORY RESEARCH - ARTIFACTS PRESERVATION**

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**117 EAST MAIN STREET**  
**BOYCE VA 22620-9639**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Your membership in the Railway Mail Service Library Foundation will support stewardship, preservation, and post office history research of the Railway Mail Service Library collection. Annual dues are \$10 and a life membership is \$250. Please provide the information below for the membership roster:

First, Middle Initial, Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Postal Code, Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations are also invited. The Railway Mail Service Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity and donations or contributions are tax deductible as provided for and to the extent provided by law. Please check this box if your employer will match your donation: ☐ If the employer requires an invoice, please provide contact information.

Thank you very much for your interest. If you have questions, please call or write.

Sincerely yours,

Frank R. Scheer, Secretary-Treasurer

RMSLF EIN: 37-1852514