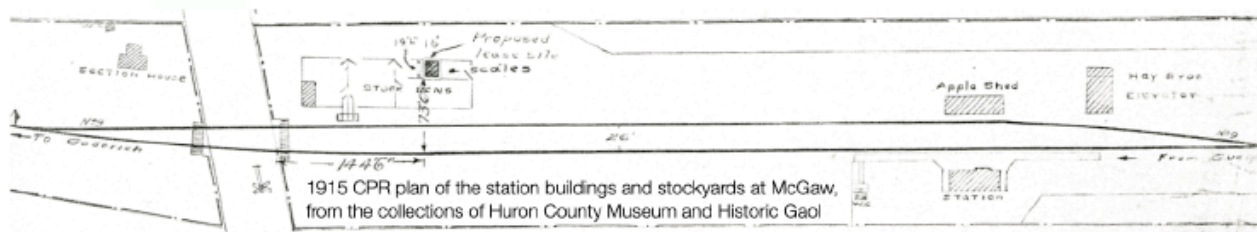


Sign for McGaw in the collection of Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol

McGaw Station (built in 1907, demolished in 1964) included: a two-storied station house with accommodation for the family of the station manager; a separate house for the section foreman and his family; a stockyard and weigh scales; as well as storage sheds for apples, hay, grain and coal. The two black and white photos (above) and colour images at the bottom of this web page were taken by **John R. Hardy**, who grew up on a farm next to CPR line, 1km northeast of McGaw.



1915 CPR plan of the station buildings and stockyards at McGaw, from the collections of Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol

Timeline for the CPR branchline from Guelph Junction to Goderich

- 1885** Merchants form a consortium with city of Guelph to establish a link with the CPR mainline
- 1887** Guelph Junction Railway (GJR) is completed; with plans to extend branchline to Goderich
- 1903** CPR completes its initial survey and GJR petitions federal government for approval of route
Colborne township provided CPR with \$6000.00 to purchase of rights of way through its lands, and requested a station be built at centre of the township for passengers and freight
- 1904** CPR begins construction of track, bridges and nine stations on the branchline
- 1905** Major landslide at Meneset results in destruction of steam shovel in the Maitland River
- 1907** Construction of stations and Menesetung Bridge is completed; rail line is officially opened
- 1915** Colborne township purchases weigh scales for the stockyard at McGaw
- 1955** CPR terminates daily passenger service to stations between Guelph and Goderich
- 1964** McGaw Station is demolished
- 1988** The last CPR freight train leaves Goderich with a load of *Champion* road graders



Picking and packing apples and early delivery vehicles in Huron County

In October of 1907, the *Clinton News Record* reported that “the CPR is doing quite a business at McGaw Station both in passengers and freight. Apples and livestock make up the principal freight.”

The photographs above show apples being packed in wooden barrels at an orchard in West Wawanosh township (1890 -1900). Below left: photo of horse-drawn wagon & load of “apple barrels” dating to 1911. Below right: photo dating to 1912 of “first truck north of London” with lumber bound for the Goderich Organ Company. All 4 photos by Reuben Sallows, in collection of Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol.





Hardy farm, Colborne township, 1 km from McGaw, 1967



Feeder cattle grazing hillsides of Colborne Township, 1968



Gordon and Wilmer Hardy baling hay in Colborne, 1967



Pfrimmer's grist mill on the Maitland River at Benmiller, 1967



CPR engines pulling train past wheat field near Shapit, 1967



CPR engines on the Guelph to Goderich line in 1967

McGaw Station was Huron County's outlet to the world...

Read local historian **David Yates'** thoughtful story on how McGaw Station and its bustling rail yard connected an isolated rural district in southwestern Ontario to the wider world, available through this [link](#). The two black and white photos at the top of this web page and the colour images above were taken by **John R. Hardy**, who grew up on a farm next to CPR line, 1km northeast of McGaw.

